Kensington & Chelsea News

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Royals on safari (watch out for the snakes, Kate)

SEE PAGE 10

People's message is clear: don't stop Carnival!

BY GEOFF BAKER
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FEARS of a bleak future for the Notting Hill Carnival have been quashed – after a council survey of residents voted it a big hit.

Despite police criticism of the organising of Carnival – at which 407 people were arrested last year – a survey conducted by Kensington and Chelsea council has revealed that a huge percentage of the revellers loved it.

The feedback revealed that 82 per cent of Carnival-goers said they had a "good" or "very good" time, rubbishing fears that the event was dangerous.

However, although the council sent postcards for its survey to 58,000 homes

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■ CARRY ON CARNIVAL: a survey conducted by Kensington and Chelsea council has revealed that a huge percentage of Notting Hill Carnival revellers loved it

Trendy nightclub fears for its future

FOLLOWING another fight at Boujis, the Kensington club popular with Prince Harry, Rhianna and Lady Gaga has been closed by police request and now faces being shut down forever.

The trendy nightspot has had its licence suspended by Kensington and Chelsea council's licensing committee just months after being given a second chance at the end of last year.

The club, whose patrons have also included the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Lewis Hamilton, Will Smith and many other celebrities, will remain closed pending a further decision by the licensing committee meeting in the next month.

In November the Thurloe Street nightclub successfully argued against a police request to cut its opening hours following a mass brawl outside its doors in October. But after another fight at the club this month, on police advice Boujis' licence has been suspended while there is a full investigation by the licensing authorities, who could refuse to allow it to open again.

A spokesman for Boujis said: "We are mortified that a minor argument between two friends that was quickly and efficiently resolved by security staff should have resulted in the reputation and livelihood of the club being put at risk in this way."

Council cries 'Freedom'

KENSINGTON and Chelsea council is reminding elderly residents to renew their Freedom Pass.

"If your older person's Freedom Pass is due to expire on Thursday, March 31 2016 you should have received a letter from London Councils in January reminding you to renew your pass," said a spokesman. Of the 1.2 million Freedom Pass holders across London, around 138,000 Older Persons pass holders will need to renew their passes from January to March 2016."

Renewing can be done online at the website *www.freedompass.org*

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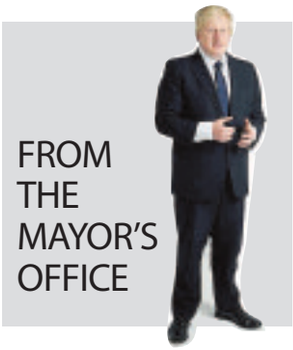
Top marks for mayor's college funding



THE Mayor of London Boris Johnson has confirmed a £65 million injection in the capital's colleges and further education facilities to ensure Londoners are best placed to compete for jobs in the city.

It follows a funding pot of £55million last year in a host of new campus technology hubs and workshops – taking the total investment available for 22 colleges in London to £120million.

The £65million has been agreed for seven of those projects to be delivered over the next four years as part of the London Enterprise Panel's Further Education Capital Investment Fund, launched by the mayor following a successful bid for Growth Deal funding from the Government in January last year. The majority of the fund has been allocated, with a small amount to be allocated for projects later in the year.

In this latest round of confirmed funding, a £22.5million grant has been approved for Lambeth College to create a new campus, training hotel, homes, new jobs and construction skills centre at the heart of the Vauxhall Nine Elms regeneration area.

The Ada National College of Digital Skills will also receive £18million to complete a move to Tottenham Hale in September this year. The project, which continues a major regeneration push led by the mayor and Haringey council, will create a new state-of-the-art college building to support its students into highly skilled digital jobs with higher level apprenticeships.

The funding programme is designed to upgrade and modernise London's colleges and further education services to ensure they are fit for purpose and put students in pole position for the 860,000 new jobs to be delivered in the capital over the next 20 years.

Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "As a global city attracting the very best talent, it's only right Londoners have world-class facilities to ensure they are prepared to compete for the thousands of new jobs being created in business, tech, media and construction. I am pleased to be able to support our colleges as they prepare the next generation who will further London's position as the best big city in the world."

Work on the Ada National Digital Skills Centre will now begin apace with in a temporary hub being created while the new state of the art building is being built, which is expected to open by September 2018.

Sir Rodney Aldridge OBE, Chair of Ada, the National College for Digital Skills, said: "I am delighted to receive this funding which will allow us to develop the hub campus and build a state-of-the-art centre for our students, the community and London more broadly. This will help realise the college's mission of offering students a high-quality provision for post-16 education in computing-related subjects as well as ensuring they will be ready for the modern workplace and will start to address the digital skills gap for industry.

"The college will provide young people from the across the capital, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with new opportunities and an education that will help them realise their dreams of pursing successful digital careers."

Cllr Joe Goldberg, Haringey council's cabinet member for economic development, social inclusion and sustainability, said: "The decision by Ada National College for Digital Skills choosing to open its new centre for digital skills in Tottenham is a massive boost for Haringey. With 147,000 high paid digital jobs unfilled every year the Ada National College for Digital Skills will give young people in Haringey the chance to learn high level digital skills including coding and secure well paid jobs. This will give opportunities to the next generation to fulfil their potential and ensure Haringey becomes the centre for digital skills in London."

Richmond upon Thames College has received £30million of investment in two rounds of funding, which will transform its campus to develop local and national employer links and facilitate a real-life learning environment. The college's plans also include a centre to assist the development of specialisms including new technologies for low carbon and electrical vehicle testing, medical sciences, advances engineering technologies and new construction skills.

Robin Ghurbhurun, principal and chief executive of Richmond upon Thames College, said: "The college is delighted to have secured this significant investment from the mayor. Our approach to partnership working with key stakeholders, in particular the London Enterprise Panel, will deliver a truly exceptional learning and skills experience at the heart of Twickenham capable of building futures and maintaining London's status as the global city for business, learning and life."

Waltham Forest College is also set to receive £3.5million towards their project to create a series of construction workshops for students specialising in electrical and plumbing work.

Peter Doble, director of finance at the college, said: "City Hall funding has allowed the college to develop this project which will inspire our learners seeking entry into practical engineering careers."

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NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

■ **TIDY PROPHETS: The Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Robert Freeman, led a Commonwealth Day ceremony on March 14. During the ceremony, which was attended by Victoria Borwick MP, the Royal Borough's Representative Deputy Lieutenant, Lady Arnold, read a message from Her Majesty The Queen. Speaking after the flag was raised the mayor said: "The annual ceremony of raising the Commonwealth Flag at the Town Hall was a reminder of the contribution of so many men and women from the Commonwealth in two world wars and of our common values and common heritage." Pictured left to right are Lady Arnold; councillor Marie-Therese Rossi, deputy mayor; councillor Tim Ahern, cabinet member for the environment; Victoria Borwick MP; councillor Will Pascall, lead member for the environment; Mayor, councillor Robert Freeman; councillor Gerald Hargreaves, cabinet member for voluntary organisations and councillor Elizabeth Rutherford.**

Step-free tube access proposal thrown out

KENSINGTON and Chelsea council has thrown out an application to provide step-free access for the elderly and disabled at Notting Hill Gate tube station – after the plans revealed it was for one-way access only.

Developers of the proposed replacement for Newcombe House and surrounding buildings at Notting Hill Gate were seeking councillors' support for the scheme on the basis that they would provide step-free access at the Underground station.

But when the council's planning committee examined the application they discovered that the plans were to only provide step-free access to the District and Circle lines going south. Councillors said they were told by the developers that it was impossible to provide access on both platforms.

Councillor Emma Dent Coad, RBKC Labour Group planning spokesperson, said: "In January residents brought a petition to council, that was supported in debate by the Labour Group, in relation to step-free access for the borough's tube stations.

"Transport for London have said they will match-fund access to stations where step-free access is needed. The petition request was agreed by the Conservatives, who said that, rather than the council putting a penny of its huge reserves into this essential facility, it should be achieved by working with developers whose projects rely on good transport links.

"The planning application for the demolition and redevelopment of Newcombe House, on the corner of Kensington Church Street and Notting Hill Gate, was promoted by the developer as giving step-free access to the District and Circle Line platforms.

"However, it transpired during the meeting on 17 March that in fact it would give access to the south-bound platform only.

"When challenged, the developer stated that as it was the Circle Line, people with mobility problems could travel the long way round to return to Notting Hill Gate.

"We are simply appalled that a developer, in addition to misrepresenting their commitment to step-free access, can blithely suggest that people relying on step-free access must travel an extra hour to get home. 'Hit the road Jack, and never come back' seems to be the theme here."

Emphatic verdict: 'carry on Carnival'

FROM PAGE 1

in the area of Carnival, only 2,249 people bothered to reply. Of them, 1,209 do not live in the royal borough.

But the "we love Carnival" response will now add pressure for a climb-down by critics who want the Bank Holiday weekend festival moved out of Notting Hill and into Hyde Park, where they say it could be more easily policed and controlled.

Although last year's Carnival saw the greatest number of police arrests since the 2008 event, with 57 people arrested for possession of knives, the greatest number of arrests [107] was for drug offences.

More than 3,500 nitrous oxide canisters with a street value of £17,000 were seized last year but the widespread drugs use has not put off the many residents who plan to go again this year.

A separate survey conducted by the Greater London Authority has revealed that most people who attended gave last year's Carnival a thumb's up rating of 8.4 out of 10, with 77 per cent saying they will go again this year and 88 per cent saying they would recommend the festival to friends. Most people, 64 per cent, said it was "the atmosphere" that they most enjoyed.

However, the news is not so good for organisers of the Children's Parade – with residents saying the family Sunday was what they least liked about Carnival.

The council's survey will considerably deaden the impact of any anti-Carnival views which the Notting Hill community fears may be revealed in another survey which has been conducted by Kensington MP Victoria Borwick.

In the introduction to her survey of residents, Lady Borwick wrote: "I was shocked, as I am sure many of you were, about the injuries and crimes committed in our neighbourhood during the Carnival."

Lady Borwick's survey asks residents if they board up their homes during Carnival weekend, whether they want to "raise issues" about gun crime, knife crime and pickpocketing, whether taxpayers or the organisers should pay the £7 million cost and it also suggests an option of banning Carnival on the Bank Holiday Monday, when traditionally most of the arrests are made.

The MP's survey says: "Holding the Carnival on the Saturday and Sunday of the August Bank Holiday Weekend, rather than the Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, would significantly reduce policing costs. Would you be in favour of this change? Why?"

Last year's carnival was policed by 6,000 officers of the Met on the Saturday and 7,000 on the Sunday and Monday.

As officers claim double pay for working on a bank holiday, the total cost of policing the event last year was £7.7 million.

Met chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has warned that with Government cuts to his budget he can no longer continue to police Carnival at last year's levels and has called for the event to be better organised with more stewards.

Speaking to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime after last year's Carnival he expressed "our lack of confidence in the quality of the organisation which is leading to policing having to fill the gap, we can't take responsibility for the event."

The Kensington and Chelsea council survey revealed that although most residents who replied were happy with the clear up, they were not happy with the lack of toilets and wanted action to be taken against revellers urinating in the streets and the noise of sound systems.

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Candidates urged to stop Crossrail 2 plan

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ANTI-CROSSRAIL campaigners in Chelsea are calling on the London mayoral candidates to reverse plans for a station in the King's Road after official figures show 90 per cent of residents are against it.

As Transport for London announced it was "full steam ahead for Crossrail 2" after last week's Budget revealed funding that will allow construction to start in the early 2020s, the No campaigners argue that even TfL's own survey has now shown "overwhelming opposition".

Last week Crossrail 2 published the results of their autumn 2015 public consultation, which revealed massive hostility to the plan for a King's Road station.

Crossrail 2 said 9,822 people responded on the proposed Kings Road Station and 8,873 (90 per cent) were opposed to it. A further 956 supported Imperial Wharf as an alternative to the King's Road site.

Chris Lenon, Chair of the No Crossrail in Chelsea campaign, said: "This consultation response underlines the overwhelming opposition to a Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea – a station that would cost more than £1 billion and has no transport case.

■ **CONTROVERSY: Plans for a Crossrail 2 station in the King's Road, Chelsea**

"The planned Chelsea station will be the only new station on the line, the only station without an interchange with another line and is not the best option for reducing passenger congestion. The National Infrastructure Commisson has questioned the station on cost benefit terms and now Londoners have overwhelmingly rejected the plans.

"Crossrail 2 is a fantastic project. We support it. But it is evident that the plan to build a massive new station in the heart of Chelsea is opposed by a huge majority of Londoners and must now be scrapped. We ask the mayoral candidates to oppose this station."

But following the Budget, TfL seems cock-a-hoop about digging up the King's Road to build the new station, which is backed by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

"Crossrail 2 has received a huge boost as the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced funding in the Budget allowing Transport for London and Network Rail to forge ahead with full scale technical development of the railway. This will enable construction to start in the early 2020s, which would allow the railway to be operational by 2033," said a TfL spokesman.

"This follows the National Infrastructure Commission report that said Crossrail 2 'should be taken forward as a priority', backing the railway as the only infrastructure project capable of meeting the demands of London's future growth. The report recommended submitting a hybrid bill by autumn 2019 and today's Budget announcement provides funding which, together with TfL funds, will enable the scheme to move forward on that schedule immediately."

Funding boost for immigrants

A KENSINGTON-BASED refugee organisation has received a grant of almost £28,000 from The Health Lottery for a project helping immigrant women to improve their English and get jobs.

WestPoint-Sustainable Community Development is a not-for-profit voluntary group with offices in Holland Park Avenue. Its latest project is being funded by money raised through Health Equality for West London, one of the local societies that distribute funding from the Health Lottery.

WestPoint-SCD's chair Kamal Mohamed said: "We are very grateful to The Health Equality for this donation that will make it possible for these immigrant woman to gain skills and have more chances for getting sustainable employment.

"They face multiple barriers accessing work opportunities. Our mission and aim for this project is for helping women to raise their self-esteem, confidence, and to gain skills and achieve economic independence through sustainable employment."

The vice-chair of the organisation and leader of its women's group, Hani Jama, added: "This is a great first step for the marginalised immigrant women of refugee background because the mainstream service provision is unable to meet their needs."

Participants in the two-year project will gain a range of employment-related and IT skills and attend English for Speakers of Other Languages classes as well as forming mutually supportive networks and friendships that will be of benefit to their communities and society as a whole.

Budding scientists

PUPILS at Holy Trinity CE Primary School in Sloane Square are preparing to become space biologists and embark on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been into space.

In September, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station on Soyuz 44S where they will spend several months in microgravity before returning to Earth this month.

The seeds have been sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Holy Trinity will be one of up to 10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space, which they will grow alongside seeds that haven't been to space and measure the differences over seven weeks.

The pupils won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians.

"The experiment will enable the pupils to think more about how we could preserve human life on another planet, what astronauts need to survive long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates," said Ms Nazia Nabi, science co-ordinator at Holy Trinity.

NEWS FROM NICK

If we want to remain the best borough we must face the challenges posed byinfrastructure improvement works, writes Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council

Cost of repair and renewal

ON 20 July 2007 over 100 cms of rain fell on west London in just a few hours. It really was an extraordinary rainstorm.

I was at an event under the Westway at the time and we were imprisoned by walls of rain. The Met Office later described the downpour as a once-in-a-130-year weather event.

Unfortunately, our Victorian sewer system was overwhelmed by the volume of water and well over 400 properties in Kensington and Chelsea were flooded. And some of the flooding in the W14 area came in the form of sewage; not good, especially for those in basement flats.

The 20th was a Friday and the Town Hall was winding down for the weekend and preparing to switch to the out-of-hours phone service. Even so, enough calls from residents had come into our switchboard to alert us that there was a problem.

A rest centre was set up, volunteers found to staff it and mutual aid agreed with a neighbouring borough; but that wasn't really the help people were looking for. And in the meantime more calls were coming in to other council departments, and to the local police, whose control room, as fate would have it, was also affected by flooding and therefore unable to share situation reports with the council.

The upshot was that on Friday we never really got a proper handle on the scale of the crisis and our full organisational response wasn't triggered. Instead, our response was underpowered and some affected residents ended up feeling let down.

It was not our finest hour and that was a source of serious regret to the council. We therefore held an inquiry and published the conclusions and recommendations a few months later.

The phrase 'crooked timbers of humanity…' springs to mind.

Attempts to design perfect systems are doomed to failure. Trial and error is how we actually improve. Our systems in July 2007 didn't work but we responded with openness and transparency and a determination to do better next time; about that at least, we can be proud.

I'm telling you this because one of the things we did, post-rain as it were, was to first lobby and then work closely with Thames Water to address the fundamental problem of sewer capacity. To its credit, and despite many other pressures, Thames Water has been listening and has brought forward a major and complex scheme designed to solve the problem.

It involves many months of work in multiple locations. A consultation is presently going on, aimed at trying to find the best balance between getting this vital work done expeditiously and ameliorating the inevitable disturbance to local residents.

You can find out more about the work and how to comment at the website *www.thameswater.co.uk/counterscreek*

Kensington and Chelsea is a largely Victorian borough and some of its infrastructure is now struggling to cope with the demands of a modern and much more densely populated city. The sewers are a case in point. But we've also got massive gas main replacements going on right now too; we are having to renovate and refurbish our schools and regular readers will already know my views on the need to upgrade our creaking transport infrastructure.

If we want to remain the best borough, we need to face up to these and other challenges. That is what your council is trying to do.

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

Mayoral campaign 'racially charged'

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Conservatives are running the most "racially charged" campaign the capital has ever seen with their attacks on Labour's candidate for London mayor, a senior MP warned last week.

Chris Bryant described the campaign against Sadiq Khan as desperate and divisive and suggested there was an element of religious prejudice against the Muslim MP.

Labour has previously accused Conservative candidate Zac Goldsmith of "coded racism" and has been criticised in the Indian press for "patronising" attempts to win over British Indian voters.

Mr Bryant called on Cabinet minister Chris Grayling to "disown" the Goldsmith campaign to succeed Boris Johnson after the May 5 elections.

But Mr Grayling hit back, accusing elements of the Labour Party of anti-Semitism during last year's general election.

In exchanges during the business statement in Parliament, shadow Commons leader Mr Bryant said: "I hope that you would also agree that all religious prejudice is equally despicable and would frankly disown the Tory campaign against Labour's candidate for Mayor of London, which is the most desperate, divisive and racially charged campaign London has ever seen.

"You should be ashamed."

Replying, Commons Leader Mr Grayling said: "Anti-Semitism has featured recently in a number of political activities and events and that is wholly and utterly unacceptable and should always be so. But I simply remind you, you make a comment about the election in London today, I would also remind you that anti-Semitism was also present in elections a year ago, the general election in London, and not from our side of the political spectrum.

"So I hope that you will take the words you said today and make sure they are properly put into root in your party.

"It is not acceptable in any part of our life for there to be anti-Semitism, it must not occur ever, it has occurred, and it should not happen."

Earlier, Mr Bryant insisted political parties must "call out" anti-Semitism even if it is "inconvenient" to them, in apparent reference to a Labour activist who has been suspended from the party while allegations are investigated.

Vicki Kirby was probed by the party in 2014 after a series of posts on Twitter in which she apparently suggested Adolf Hitler might be a "Zionist God" and Jews had "big noses". She was subsequently reinstated with a warning and it emerged this week that she had been appointed vice-chairman of Labour's Woking branch, but she has now been suspended pending an investigation.

Mr Bryant said: "I'm sure you will join me in saying we must do everything in our power to stop religious intolerance and racial hatred infecting our politics and our political parties.

"That means calling out anti-Semitism wherever we find it, even if it's inconvenient to ourselves and expelling those who peddle these vile arguments from our political parties."

■ LABOUR: Sadiq Khan

■ TORY: Zac Goldsmith

■ **Green Party mayoral candidate Sian Berry has vowed to take drastic action against the capital's air pollution which is prematurely killing at least 9,500 Londoners every year** **SEE PAGE 6**

Night Tube 'to start in July'

LONDON Underground's all-night Tube service is set to begin in July, Boris Johnson has said.

The London Mayor told the Press Association he was given the approximate launch date by Transport for London (TfL).

Asked if the wait for the night Tube would end in July, he replied: "Well, that's what I'm told by TfL – towards the end of July."

Passengers will be able to travel through the night on Fridays and Saturdays on the Victoria, Jubilee, Central, Northern and Piccadilly Lines.

Mr Johnson made the announcement as he took the controls of a training simulator being used by some of the 200 part-time drivers who will run the service.

The night Tube was due to start last September but its introduction was delayed because an agreement could not be reached with trade unions.

The breakthrough has followed acceptance of a pay deal by members of the two biggest Tube unions – Aslef and the Rail, Maritime and Transport union.

The Transport Salaried Staffs Association and Unite have yet to accept the deal, but TfL is pressing ahead with starting the night Tube in July.

Referring to the delay in introducing the all-night service, Mr Johnson said: "We've had to go a bit slower than I necessarily would have wanted, but on the other hand better to do that ... I thought Londoners would rather wait a little bit than we pay an exorbitant demand to get it done."

The mayor claimed the service would be "great news for those looking to work and play throughout the night".

It will give the capital "another economic shot in the arm", he added.

Mr Johnson met a class of 12 recruits last week at London Underground's training headquarters in West Kensington, west London.

After chatting to the group, he declared: "They can't wait to get started."

But the RMT revealed earlier this week that it has written to London Underground bosses complaining of a lack of consultation over health and safety issues.

Members of the union accepted a pay deal for the new service, but it remains in dispute over engineers, who are being balloted for industrial action.

General secretary Mick Cash said: "There is very clearly some distance to go in terms of getting all of the components in place."

An exact start date is not expected to be announced until agreements with the unions are in place. The RMT remains in dispute over night Tube safety, and is balloting 1,500 maintenance staff for strike action.

Mr Cash added: "We may have settled the dispute for LU staff on pay and conditions but the idea that all of the outstanding issues have been resolved, not least the safety case and the Tube Lines engineers dispute, is simply not true. There are still significant concerns over staff rosters and those basic operational issues would be fundamental to hitting a start date this summer."

TSSA leader Manuel Cortes said: "A lot of water will go under the bridge between now and then, including the fact that London will have a new mayor. Night Tube proposals may still go up in smoke."

■ COMING SOON: The Night Tube is due to begin running in July

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Greens' hopeful pledges drastic action against new Great Smog

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LETHAL diesel-engine cars, vans and lorries will be immediately banned from entering central London if Green Party candidate Sian Berry is elected mayor in May – and the congestion charge will rocket to up to £50 a day.

The Camden councillor bidding to replace Boris Johnson has vowed to take instant and drastic action against the capital's air pollution which is prematurely killing at least 9,500 Londoners every year.

With London's dirty air now causing more deaths than the Great Smog of the 1950s did and is set to send up to 38,000 residents to an early grave by 2020, Ms Berry said: "The time for half-hearted efforts on air pollution is past."

She added: "If I'm elected mayor I will immediately exclude the most-polluting cars, vans and lorries from central London."

Ms Berry said that as London returns to the days of the Great Smog, the air death toll is now so high that urgent action must be taken.

In 1952 the Great Smog killed 6,000 Londoners after a period of cold weather, combined with an anticyclone and windless conditions, collected airborne pollutants, mostly from the use of coal, to form a thick layer of smoky fog over the city.

The Great Smog was the worst air-pollution event in the history of the UK and it led to the introduction of the Clean Air Act in 1956. But now as breathing in London has become even more difficult, the Green chief says the capital must be cleaned up urgently.

■ CLEAN IT UP: Sian Berry and fellow anti-pollution campaigners make their point

"London needs a comprehensive plan to bring its air within legal limits as soon as possible, using every tool at our disposal," said a spokesman for Sian Berry.

"With air pollution estimated to cause more than 9,500 premature deaths in London every year, Sian has set a wide range of actions that she would carry out as mayor to comply with air pollution laws by 2020 at the absolute latest.

"Immediate measures include enforcement of the existing ban on idling for parked vehicles, a higher congestion charge for all but the cleanest vehicles in Central London, and accelerating the programme of replacing diesel buses with hybrids and electric vehicles."

The spokesman said Ms Berry proposed raising the £11.50 congestion charge to £50 for the most polluting vehicles and to £20 for all other cars, vans and trucks.

"In the longer term, Sian will create a much larger Ultra Low Emission Zone, write much stronger car-free policies into the London Plan, commission a cleaner version of the 'New Bus for London' and expand the electric car charging network to create 25,000 charging points," said the spokesman.

Ms Berry said: "Sixty years after the Clean Air Act helped put an end to the deadly smogs that came from coal fires and power stations, we are now faced with a comparable problem.

"The time for half-hearted efforts to clean up our polluted air and ensure compliance with existing laws is past.

"If I'm elected mayor I will immediately exclude the most polluting cars, vans and lorries from Central London, and speed up the switchover to make all new buses and taxis zero-emission."

Ms Berry's spokesman said the ban would affect all vehicles that fail to achieve the Euro IV standard, which was introduced in 2005.

Ms Berry also pledged: "I will cancel road-building plans and oppose all airport expansion.

"I also believe in telling Londoners the truth, and I will provide warnings about bad air days so people can protect their health by cutting car use and avoiding outdoor exercise.

"In the longer term we need an effective new Ultra Low Emission Zone to keep polluting diesel vehicles out of London, along with fair charges on motoring to reduce traffic levels. That's the only way we can bring pollution down to levels that we can genuinely describe as 'quality air'."

Sian Berry's proposals for cleaning up the city's air are being backed by the campaign group Clean Air In London, which has voted her plan the best of all the mayoral candidates.

"In London and across Europe, air pollution is killing more than 10 times the number of people dying from road traffic accidents," said the campaign group's founder, Simon Birkett. "The known health effects of air pollution have rocketed in recent years with the World Health Organisation classifying outdoor air pollution as carcinogenic to humans in October 2013 as it did smoking in February 1985.

"At its simplest, in public health terms, 'invisible' air pollution is where smoking was 30 years ago in terms of the scale and certainty of the risks and the lack of public understanding of them."

Berry's blueprint for a cleaner city

Immediate action

■ Tighten up the standards on the current Londonwide Low Emission Zone for vans and make sure they are properly enforced through vehicle checks, with enforcement of the existing ban on idling for parked vehicles.

■ Introduce a higher congestion charge for all but the cleanest vehicles in central London, to create a Very Low Emission Zone. This will ensure that where drivers have a choice of vehicle they never bring polluting cars into London and provide a strong incentive for London's car owners either to give up their vehicles or to change to petrol or hybrid cars as quickly as possible. We will invite boroughs to opt in some or all of their area to expand this zone into illegally polluted parts of inner and outer London.

■ Accelerate the programme of replacing diesel buses with hybrids and electric vehicles, ensuring the entire fleet is moved to these technologies by 2020 at the latest and that the Ultra Low Emission Zone can be extended to all of London without affecting bus services.

■ Maintain and extend scrappage grants and loan schemes for black cab drivers so that all their vehicles are zero-emissions capable by 2018, ensuring there is a suitable charging infrastructure for them to run on electric power in all areas of inner London at least.

■ Join car owners and those affected by high air pollution in bringing legal action against car makers for cheating on their emissions tests and misleading all of us about the pace of change in the pollution caused by our vehicles.

■ Begin consultation immediately on introducing emergency traffic reduction measures to protect Londoners from the worst air pollution days we currently experience.

■ Lobby government for a scrappage scheme for all diesel vehicles, and changes to Vehicle Excise Duty and the new Roads Fund to encourage Londoners to give up car ownership by switching to walking, cycling, public transport, car clubs or at least low or zero-emission vehicles.

Longer term plans

■ Begin consultation immediately on a scheme to replace the ULEZ that will cover all of London and be effective in complying with the law. This could be combined with the new traffic demand management scheme we will develop to replace the Congestion Charge.

■ Put much stronger car-free housing policies in the London Plan to support the trend for lower car ownership in both inner and outer London. This will be supported by our transport policies to improve public transport and make living without a car easier in all parts of our city.

■ Ensure all planning applications are air quality neutral, requiring new developments to reduce air pollution in the most heavily polluted areas.

■ Oppose all road and airport expansion in the South East and London, as well as putting together proposals for City Airport to be closed and replaced with a new city quarter for homes and businesses, working with local authorities, businesses, developers, large and small, along with academic and cultural institutions.

■ Revisit plans for the 'New Bus for London' to explore a number of newer, more accessible, higher capacity and cleaner versions of the new design.

■ Ensure the electric car charging network is properly maintained and funded and aim to expand it to provide 25,000 charging points across London.

■ Develop further electric vehicle charging networks for vans, car clubs and private cars in local areas in collaboration with local councils.

Our trees can beat flooding

A BUSINESSMAN is calling for more tree planting to prevent flooding after his company's research found that London trees absorb the same amount of water as around 1,365 Olympic swimming pools every year.

That is almost the same as 10 times the water held in the London Serpentine lake in Hyde Park.

The news comes as the forestry industry launches a petition calling on the Government to back more tree planting to prevent flooding.

Last week the Environment Agency announced that planting trees around rivers could reduce the height of flooding in towns by up to 20 per cent.

The research, carried out by Treeconomics and Forest Research, was commissioned by the Mayor of London's office and the Forestry Commission.

The water run-off that is avoided is calculated as saving the London taxpayer £1.5million every year.

Kenton Rogers, tree expert and environmental scientist with Treeconomics said: "Trees are the most simple and cost effective solution imaginable to combat the threat of climate change and changing weather patterns."

Key findings from the Greater London project:

■ Greater London has a total tree population of approximately 8.5 million (a tree for every Londoner)

■ Inner London has a total tree population of approximately 1.6 million

■ Trees across greater London capture and store 77200 tonnes of carbon every year, to the value of £4.63 million

■ Pollution absorption is calculated at 2241 tonnes every year across greater London, valued at a cost of over £100 million per annum

Coffee cup tax could be next

LONDONERS who can't get through the day without a takeaway coffee in their hand at all times could find it costs more to have their caffeine-on-the-go in future.

For it emerged this week that coffee cups could be taxed to prevent tens of millions being thrown away.

Conservative frontbencher Rory Stewart told MPs there is a "huge problem" with plastic-lined paper cups.

He insisted the plastic bag tax has been successful since it was introduced in England and Wales last October, adding that non-recyclable coffee cups seem to be a "very good thing to look at next".

The 5p charge on plastic bags aimed to reduce the litter and environmental damage caused by retailers handing out billions of single-use carrier bags, with concerns now growing over the lack of takeaway coffee cups recycled.

Mr Stewart said in the House of Commons last week: "I absolutely agree. It's a huge problem and there are tens of millions of these things being produced and thrown away."

Security agencies on alert amid fears of 'dirty bomb' terror attack

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

■ SAFETY FEARS: Security officials fear terrorists may be working on a 'dirty bomb' attack on London

EXPERTS' fears are growing that ISIS terrorists are planning a "dirty bomb" nuclear attack in London.

Fears have risen following the discovery by security agencies that an unknown black marketeer is selling stolen nuclear fuel for a bomb – and after an ISIS plot to obtain nuclear material was recently thwarted by police in Belgium.

The concerns link with reports that the SAS have been holding secret exercises to prepare for a dirty bomb outrage in the city and they follow a warning by Scotland Yard's counter terrorism chief that the Islamist terrorists now have "big ambitions for enormous and spectacular attacks".

A dirty bomb attack on London would cause huge casualties and could leave vast areas uninhabitable because of radiation poisoning.

Fears have grown since the Pulitzer Prize-winning US investigative journalism watchdog The Center for Public Integrity [CPI] revealed last month that police had uncovered that ISIS-linked individuals had been staking out a senior researcher at a Belgian nuclear centre which produces much of the world's supply of radioisotopes.

"Radioisotopes are a diagnostic tool used by hospitals and factories around the globe, but they are also capable of causing radiation poisoning and sickness, making them a potential target for terrorists seeking to build a so-called 'dirty" bomb' that could contaminate the downtown area of a major city, sowing panic and causing billions of dollars in financial losses," reported the CPI.

"Belgian authorities have since speculated that the group was trying to figure out a way to collect such materials from the nuclear center, perhaps by kidnapping the man or one of his family members as the first step in building a bomb."

The CPI's revelation comes on the heels of another investigation in which it discovered Western intelligence that a criminal based in the former Soviet republic of Moldava has made repeated attempts to sell enriched uranium on the black market.

An arrest last year of a middleman marked "one of four attempts in the past five years by Moldovan residents to smuggle dangerous nuclear materials into the hands of unscrupulous buyers" the CPI reported.

It added: "The resulting international probe into the case has sparked fresh, and previously unreported worries, that thieves inside of Russia somehow made off years ago with a full bomb's worth of highly enriched uranium. Western spies fear the thieves have been doggedly looking for a buyer for the past 16 years, by repeatedly dangling in front of them identical, genuine samples of that highly valuable material."

The CPI added: "Evidence collected indicates that a weapons-grade cache of nuclear material has been 'in the wild since the mid-1990s,' a knowledgable US intelligence official said.

"It's widely thought to be no longer in Russia, and to possibly have passed through multiple hands.

"The basis for international worry, several officials explained, is the potential for all or part of this nuclear-materials cache to wind up in the hands of a terrorist buyer who could transform it into a viable weapon, using technical information about nuclear bomb designs that has leaked long ago into the public domain."

Given the wealth of the ISIS – reported to be up to £1.3 billion – and in light of the terror group's recent warning that it is planning a "Doomsday attack" in the UK that would "turn children's hair white", security services fear the Islamists are keenly in the market to buy nuclear material to construct a dirty bomb.

Police and security services are on heightened alert in London, as evidenced by training exercises that were staged by British and American special forces last month in preparation for a dirty bomb attack.

The Sunday Times reported that the SAS worked with the Special Boat Squadron, Army bomb disposal and officers from the US Delta Force, Navy Seals and the FBI on the exercises, which took place at four locations in central London.

"The exercise was arranged after intelligence from British and American agencies suggested that Islamist terrorists were trying to develop a new generation of bombs," reported *The Sunday Times*.

Fears have also grown since Met Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley, Britain's head of counter-terrorism, warned that ISIS is planning bigger and more ambitious atrocities against Western targets including the UK.

He said: "Terrorists groups are always about impact. Terrorists groups have always wanted to do a grander and more spectacular attack because they have more impact.

"Now you see terror groups with big ambitions for enormous and spectacular attacks not just the type that we have seen foiled to date."

Meanwhile, as the security alert remains at severe, MI5 is continuing to warn the public to be on guard and on the look out.

"The terrorist threat is serious and ongoing. Members of the public can help to prevent terrorism by being alert to possible suspicious activities," said the security service spokesman.

"Terrorists have to live somewhere, and they need to plan and prepare for attacks. They buy and store materials, fund their activities, move around, prepare equipment and weapons and possibly undergo training.

"They may have people helping them – and these people might come and go at strange times of the day and night.

"They may make unusual financial transactions or use false documents to hide their real identities. They may be behaving differently from how you've known them to behave in the past.

"Members of the public may spot such activities, and if reported in time, a planned terrorist attack may be stopped before it happens. If you are aware of something suspicious, trust your instincts and report it to the police.

"What might seem insignificant on its own could actually provide a vital link in a wider investigation."

Fulham hits credit crunch

FULHAM residents are among the worst in London when it comes to managing their money – despite earning more than most.

New research revealed that even though Hammersmith and Fulham featured high up in London's rich list, average credit scores were worryingly low.

According to credit check specialists ClearScore, there were only five boroughs with a worse average rating.

The findings were based on a study of millions of individual credit scores across more than 3,000 London postcodes.

ClearScore CEO Justin Basini said: "To get an excellent credit score you need to take the bull by the horns and sort your finances.

"This is especially important for Londoners grappling with the heftiest mortgages in the country."

NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

■ ENTERTAINERS: The Delaney Academy of Irish Dance thrilled St Patrick's night party-goers

Hundreds enjoy green party

MORE than 200 people attended the early St Patrick's night party at OLV church on High Street, Kensington on March 12.

The hall was awash with green and the Guinness flowed as everyone enjoyed traditional Irish music provided by the Sean Brady duo.

And, although it was Ireland's night, this was an international gathering. The Filipino community were very much in evidence and present also were people from around the world. For this special night they were all wearing green in honour of St Patrick, who is also the patron saint of Nigeria.

The Delaney Academy of Irish Dance entertained the 240 guests. Fourteen-year-old Louis Cuddy stole the show with an impressively skilled solo performance. The talented youngster was due to be a contestant in this month's World Irish Dancing Championships held in Glasgow.

The party was organised by Kensington Friends of the Holy Land and the event raised £2,650 for this charity.

■ EMERALD EYES: There was a truly international feel to the St Patrick's night party that was staged in Kensington earlier this month as more than 200 people got together and enjoyed an Irish celebration, fuelled by traditional Irish dancing and, of course, Guinness

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Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS — pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Philimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle — pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE — pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE — pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane	W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road	W12 9AS

Manager must go but KPH 'will stay a pub'

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AFTER a long and passionate battle, KPH manager Vince Power has lost his fight to stay in charge of the popular Ladbroke Grove landmark – but the new owner insists that it will remain a pub.

The Court of Appeal has rejected Mr Power's bid to keep running the 150-year-old Kensington Park Hotel, despite huge support from the community and Kensington and Chelsea Council.

Mr Power took over the management of The KPH in 2013, with power of attorney from the leaseholder of 40 years, Patrick Burke, who had been too ill to run it himself. But Mr Power has been fighting to keep the pub since the freehold was bought from Punch Taverns by SWA Developments three years ago.

Mr Power turned The KPH into one of the premier venues for the local community, making it a live music venue for top artists including Van Morrison and Mary Coughlin, and his stewardship of the pub and his fight to stay in charge was backed by a large number of locals, including singer and broadcaster Cerys Matthews, comedian Eddie Izzard, former Clash member Paul Simonon, the Portobello Café Society and the action group KPH United.

■ ALL CHANGE: The KPH

MP Alan Johnson also backed residents' campaign supporting Mr Power and in a bid to block the pub getting turned into flats, a coffee shop or an estate agent's, as was rumoured locally, Kensington and Chelsea council made it an Asset of Community Value.

But last week the appeals court ruled in favour of the new owner, Steven Archer, and Mr Power posted on social media: "I am sad to say that we have lost the appeal. The judge has given us 21 days to vacate the property. Thank you to all who have helped me along the way."

Last orders for the current management of The KPH will be before April 7.

But Mr Archer has pledged that The KPH will stay as a pub and it will not be developed for alternative businesses.

"These last couple of years have been an horrendous time, there has been a lot of misinformation circulating locally about my plans," said Mr Archer.

"There has been a lot of animosity and I can sympathise with the locals who feared about a developer coming in – but I can assure you that The KPH will 100 per cent remain a pub.

"We'll be doing our best to get a new manager in there as soon as possible and to refurbish it and I am determined to make it a fantastic and profitable venue."

Charities should create community hub

UNDER THE WESTWAY

In her guest column, Angela Spence, Chief Executive of the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council, a Westway Trust Member Organisation, says that local charities and community organisations face increasing challenges to find the right spaces to work in

AS the recognised infrastructure organisation for the voluntary sector in the Royal Borough, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC) sees many of the challenges that face charitable organisations here.

A recent discussion with other Westway Trust Member Organisations raised the issue of a lack of space for charitable and community activity, something I believe we could challenge by working outside political structures.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has a thriving mix of diverse communities, many of which are supported by services delivered by the local voluntary and community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Many of these services play an important role in supporting local residents to live full and independent lives and also act as a necessary lifeline in supporting people to deal with day-to-day issues such as loneliness and isolation, addictions, poor health, debt and financial crisis.

Organisations are spread throughout the Royal Borough, such as pockets within the south, but within the north there is a larger concentration due to the level of deprivation there. Kensington and Chelsea Social Council reports through its own database that there is a total of 550 VCSE organisations within the borough for which direct face-to-face service provision or electronic communication takes place.

Where these organisations are based ranges from council and Westway Trust premises to church halls to independently owned property.

The challenge for us all is to understand the importance of offices and other spaces as we fight to retain much needed services in the future. The council's existing policy for its property portfolio is to realise a high return on its assets and in doing so has a programme of seeking to maximise income from the property it owns. However, this approach has led to concern about the future adverse effect on the voluntary and community sector.

In contrast, the Government's National Planning Policy Framework on promoting healthy communities and sustainable development highlights the need for "accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural wellbeing" .

These competing priorities of maximising income from property whilst retaining space for community provision creates a huge challenge for community organisations which rely on partnership with local government.

Local VCSE sector services will be a vital link between service users and local authorities and the NHS as we support an ageing population to improve their health and wellbeing all in a climate of economic constraint. This will require long-term thinking and well thought out plans from all sides.

This should not be left to politicians alone; this requires strategic thinking from VCSE sector providers on how we can maximise space that will create greater efficiencies across the sector.

I would like to see us create a new voluntary and community sector hub that provides office space, meeting space and space for direct community activity. This space could house VCSE organisations to deliver services that could be aligned in order to utilise community space in a centralised location. Back office functions could be merged to create efficiencies within the system and room hire at affordable rates.

Such a space would need to be cost effective so would need to be supported by other high income generated activities.

The challenge is working together to understand how such an idea could come to life. It would require leadership from trustees to look at how services could be more joined up with other local services as well as sharing office space.

Moving forward

WE need to explore the possibility of shared space sooner rather than later that will encourage and support a mixed economy of VCSE organisations and services. This should also include the potential for public and private sector collaboration.

Time is of the essence as voluntary sector funding tightens and more and more services come under financial threat.

There is an opportunity here for Kensington and Chelsea to be the leader in building sustainable services and I firmly believe that as a community we should take it.

■ **VOLUNTEERS: Children's centre supporters and guest speakers**

Mums celebrate Women's Day

THE Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's children's centres organised an event to celebrate International Women's Day at the Holiday Inn on Cromwell Road.

For the past five years volunteer mums from the centres have organised an event to celebrate International Women's Day and give fellow children's centre users the opportunity to listen to inspirational speakers and indulge in well-deserved pampering activities. The theme for this year's event was Equality Knows No Borders.

Speakers included Ziauddin Yousafzai (a Pakistani diplomat, best known as the father of Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai), Frances Scott (founder of the 50:50 Parliament Campaign which petitions Parliament to debate and take action to get better gender balance) and Antoinette Magambo (a children's centre volunteer who helps to run the Rwandan Sisterhood Association to support Rwandan women living in the United Kingdom).

Councillor Elizabeth Campbell, the Royal Borough's Cabinet Member for Families and Children's Services, said: "I would like to thank our children's centre volunteers for organising such as successful event and for all the great work they do all year round."

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MAYOR OF LONDON

ROYAL LONDON

Watch out! Kate takes a walk on the wild side

BY GEOFF BAKER
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LET'S hope that the Duchess of Cambridge likes snakes, as next month she will be going to the home of three of the biggest in the world, including one that grows to 28 feet long.

Monster snakes inhabit the Kaziranga National Park, where the Duke and Duchess will be visiting on April 12th as part of their first visit to India.

Kensington Palace says the park trip will enable the royal couple to "experience the rich variety of wildlife" which includes the reticulated python, the world's longest snake.

Although its diet is usually rodents, chickens and the occasional pig or dog, without wishing to cause Kate to go shrieking "I'm a duchess, get me out of here!" it would be remiss not to mention that the python has been known to dine on humans – although such feeding is rare, the last time a fully-grown adult was nabbed by such a snake was in 2008.

Besides that long and winding serpent, other snakes regularly found in the national park are the rock python and the king cobra. Again, zoologists are keen to calm any fears by assuring us that that rock pythons "rarely" kill humans and prefer to eat goats, antelopes and on occasion crocodiles.

So that's alright then, there's nothing like a crocodile-swallower to make one feel as safe as houses. In fact, this relative tiddler of the python family – growing 'only' to 20 ft – has not been known to have a crack at seizing a human for ages and it was as far back as all of only seven years ago when the last case was reported, when a farm manager was dragged up a tree by a 13 ft specimen after battling with it for an hour.

However, the royal party will doubtless be relieved to know that the farmer survived – he was briefly released from its grip after biting its tail, enabling him to call the police on his mobile phone [I am not making this up].

But both the duke and duchess will be advised by wardens not to try the old tail-biting trick on another creature of the national park, the king cobra. This fearsomely-dangerous ground slider not only grows up to more than 18 ft but it also has the disadvantage of being one of the world's most-venomous snakes, with a bite that can kill a man in 30 minutes and an elephant within a couple of hours.

Fortunately, the king cobra prefers to eat other snakes. However, if the royal party should come across the cobra – which apparently one will know because this species does not hiss but in fact growls, at a much lower register – we are assured by expert naturalists that "a good defence against a cobra for anyone who accidentally encounters this snake is to slowly remove a shirt and toss it to the ground while backing away".

For those royals not wishing to strip off, another good defence is believed to be a 12-gauge shotgun.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will visit India and Bhutan from April 10th-16th. Their trip will include seeing Mumbai, New Delhi, Kaziranga, Thimphu and Agra.

On April 16th they will visit the Taj Mahal on April 16th, when half of the planet's press photographers will attempt to persuade Kate to pose on her own – and thus replicate Princess Diana's famous picture of 1992 which spoke volumes about the sad end of her marriage. And there is about as much chance of that happening as Kate getting dragged up a tree to dial 999.

■ ROYAL ADVENTURES: The Duchess of Cambridge is heading to the Kaziranga National Park

Surprise surprise, Chinese ignore William's warning

LAST year amid the Establishment's mass genuflecting for the visit of the president of China, Prince William pretty much pleaded for Xi Jinping to step in and stop the slaughter of rhinos which goes on to feed the deluded habit of Chinese fantasists who believe that the animals' horn cures cancer and that the Moon is made of cheese.

President Xi assured the prince that he would do so.

Guess what? So spectacularly unsuccessful has any intervention been that last week the Duke of Cambridge had to speak out again, re-warning that it will be "devastating for humanity" if the rhinos become extinct – as is looking likely within 10 years.

Speaking to ITV News, Prince William condemned illegal poaching, which is decimating rhino and elephant numbers, and he said it is make or break time to save the rhino.

"In the next five to ten years if there's not a massive change, a dramatic change, in the way we appreciate and protect these iconic species, there won't be these incredible animals there, which not only is obviously sad for future generations but I think it would be incredibly devastating for humanity itself when we have sat back and we have lost something we have been responsible for," he said.

"If we haven't achieved something in the next five to ten years then it will be almost impossible to do anything after that.

Because the numbers will be so depleted the damage will be done so badly and clearly the demand won't have been halted."

Despite the prince's admirable stand for the rhino, PR experts believe that instead of addressing the TV audience in the UK, where the number of halfwits who believe in the magic properties of rhino horn is nil, he may have more luck by teaming up with Phuong Vy, Dong Nhi, Thanh Bui and Thu Minh.

Although they are unfamiliar to us Brits, in Vietnam they are the nation's biggest pop stars and Vietnam has become the biggest new market for rhino horn. And, good news for Kensington Palace, the Vietnamese pop idols are already onside in working to save the rhino. Last summer they and a host of Vietnamese celebrities staged *The Call Of The Wild* on Vietnamese TV, a two-hour special to raise awareness of the fate of the rhino.

"The special was aimed at Vietnamese youth, who are highly influential in persuading the elders to reject the consumption of rhino horn," said a spokesman for WildAid, which helped promote the event.

Thanh Bui, who is Vietnam's equivalent of Harry Styles, last year travelled to South Africa to film for the campaign to correct mediaeval beliefs in his homeland.

"When I arrived in South Africa, being a Vietnamese, I was held for four hours at the airport and was treated like a criminal," said Mr Bui. "Later, when I witnessed with my own eyes the horrible massacre of rhino in South Africa, I got to understand why."

■ ROYAL SUPPORTER: Vietnamese pop star Phuong Vy is working to save the rhino

■ PRINCE'S PLEA: William has warned the world that rhinos face extinction

Queen's speech drops a EU hint

BY GEOFF BAKER

ONE can always trust Her Majesty to wisely point us in the direction of a good idea.

Not that we are suggesting for one moment that the text of The Queen's recent Commonwealth Day message should be taken to be any sort of comment on the EU Brexit debate; Lord forbid any such insinuation, as Downing Street would send the rozzers round soon as look at you and the last thing that either Her Majesty or your correspondent wants is David Cameron angrily frothing that we are Maoists.

However, at the risk of upending the Prime Minister towards even more frenzied anxiety that Coming Out would seriously damage his chances of getting a table at his favourite Italian, Oliviocarne in Belgravia's Elizabeth Street, there was sound thinking in The Queen's speech in praise of the Commonwealth.

Of course ever since the scoundrelous calumny by foul Satanists and enemies of the state that Her Majesty may on some rare occasion have favoured a KitKat in preference to Government-approved Belgian chocolates, the text of anything that The Queen reads is now doubtless blue-pencilled by No 10's Euro fetishists. But as they were probably distracted at the time by thumbscrewing Michael Gove, perhaps the gagging brigade missed a bit.

"Wherever we live in the Commonwealth, we can always benefit from being open to the ideas and encouragement of those around us. Each of us can also make a positive difference in the lives of others by being willing to contribute and offer support," read Her Majesty's speech.

"This is an essential ingredient of belonging to the Commonwealth: the willingness to share, to exchange and to act for the common good. By including others, drawing on collective insights, knowledge and resources, and thinking and working together, we lay the foundations of a harmonious and progressive society.

"The greater the diversity of those included in such a shared enterprise, the greater the gains."

It may be pedantic to read into "working together" and "shared enterprise", but if the nation does vote in June to pull out of the race with Frau Merkel for the best spots on the beach, the Commonwealth could be the solution that keeps us out of the workhouse.

Although the Commonwealth's current market of £6.9 trillion GDP is not quite in the region of the EU's £12.2 trillion, economists advise that in order for expansion, exporters should look towards potential, rather than existing, customers.

Did Her Majesty's speechwriter cannily calculate that, as such, the EU's population of 742 million offers considerably less opportunity for "shared enterprise" than the Commonwealth's 2.3 billion, a whacking 33 per cent of the world's population as opposed to the EU's measly 7.3 per cent?

Just saying…

■ **CROWNING GLORY: Prince Philip's 1954 Aston Martin Lagondais tipped to attract huge interest at auction**

Duke's runabout likely to drive a hard bargain

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

INVESTORS with around £500,000 cash to play with should get up to Cambridgeshire next month to bid for Prince Philip's weekly lunch club runabout as it could more than quadruple their money in 10 years.

The classic car market is providing a better return than almost everything else at the moment and few investments are considered to be more sound than the Duke of Edinburgh's 1954 Aston Martin Lagonda Drophead Coupe Mark I, which will be put up for auction by H&H Classics at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on April 20th.

Although the estimate of £450,000 is at least three times what an ordinary Lagonda 3-litre DHC would be worth, the winning bidder can expect to drive his investment up to be worth £2.6 million in a decade, say money experts.

The investment would be wiser than putting one's money into stocks and shares. The FTSE All Share Index was down two per cent last year and up only 21 per cent over a decade.

By contrast, classic cars are booming in price and saw a 487 per cent rise over the past 10 years and were the strongest performers in last year's Knight Frank Luxury Index, with a 16 per cent increase last year and beating wine and stamps as a wise investment.

■ **DRIVING SEAT: Inside Prince Philip's 1954 Aston Martin Lagonda**

Prince Philip's Lagonda has been repainted in its original special order Edinburgh Green hue and has covered some 50,000 miles from new, reports H&H Classics. The car was built in 1954 to the special order of the Duke of Edinburgh and driven by him until 1961, including on regular trips to Cowdray Park and Cheam prep school to drop off Prince Charles.

"In many ways the car was a statement of his determination to have a life of his own," said H&H Classics. "In London the car was Prince Phillip's escape into some kind of private life as evidenced in its use once a week to take him to the Thursday Club in Soho.

"Here he met every Thursday for lunch in a private room on the top floor of a fashionable Soho restaurant with writers and actors such as Peter Ustinov and James Robertson Justice, and two of Philip`s special friends, his cousin David, the Marques of Milford Haven, and the court photographer Baron Nahum."

The car, in which Prince Philip and The Queen opened the M1 motorway in 1958, is thought to be the only car owned personally by the Duke to be in public hands. As well as a raft of other non-standard extras, including a power hood and floor-change gearbox, it was originally fitted with a radio telephone, which was almost unheard of at the time.

The phone had to have its own radio frequency allocated by The Admiralty and any calls to Buckingham Palace were made via a Pye relay station in North London. According the H&H Classics, Prince Philip would use it to make surprise calls to his wife and would disguise his voice when in conversation with Prince Charles or Princess Anne. The car has recently been serviced and is said to be 'on the button'. Huge interest in its sale is expected from investors and car enthusiasts from the USA to China.

"This car is part of our history," said H&H sales manager Damian Jones, "The accompanying paperwork beggars belief.

"There is an amusing story about Prince Phillip driving Her Majesty through London in this car and being held up by a policeman on point duty directing traffic. When the policeman saw who was in the Lagonda he did a double take and swiftly waved them on."

The very top gear motor is from a fleet of luxury limos at the palace. The Queen owns two Bentleys plus a Rolls Royce Phantom VI and a 1950 Phantom IV which is still used for visits to the races at Ascot. The Palace garage also homes a 1988 half-scale Aston Martin which was a present to Prince William and Prince Harry.

However, perhaps the most-prized of the royal motors is Prince Philip's favourite – his personal London taxi, which became his runaround after his first electric car.

The Duke bought the electric car in the Sixties, when he was 50 years ahead of the London authorities who are currently campaigning for improvements in the capital's dirty air.

"The Duke became concerned about the quality of the air in London in the 1960s and acquired an electric vehicle produced by Bedford, with a Lucas electric motor, and Chloride batteries for use in London," said a palace spokesman.

"When these vehicles ceased to be produced, he acquired a London Metrocab Taxi, painted green, with an engine fuelled by liquid petroleum gas. The taxi was not required to pay the London Congestion Charge when that was introduced."

Prince Philip's taxi was still in use around London up to five years ago but is now believed to driven only around the royal grounds.

Where to see a royal

FULL details of events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of the Royal Family are available from the official website *www.royal.gov.uk* but here's their schedule for the week ahead

March 22

■ ***The Princess Royal***, as Patron, National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, will attend 'Driving Change' Roundtable Discussions, Resource for London, Holloway Road N7.

■ ***The Princess Royal***, as Royal Patron, Motor Neurone Disease Association, will attend a Reception at the Law Society, Chancery Lane WC2.

March 23

■ ***The Duke of Edinburgh***, as Honorary Member, Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, will attend a Discussion Dinner at One Great George Street SW1.

■ ***The Countess of Wessex***, as Chairman, Women in Business promoting The Duke of Edinburgh's Award will attend a meeting at 11 Belgrave Road SW1.

■ ***The Countess of Wessex***, as President, NSPCC will hold a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

■ ***The Princess Royal***, as Patron, UK Youth, will attend a Dinner, Boisdale Canary Wharf, Cabot Place, Canary Wharf, London E14.

■ **ROYAL ROLE: Sophie, Countess of Wessex is on royal duty this week**

Balkan trip

PRINCE Charles visited the Kovilj Monastery at Novi Sad during his tour of the Balkans last week.

At the monastery he was met by its abbot, Father Isihije Hesychios.

Monks lined the path to the chapel and, once inside, Charles was greeted by another group of monks singing hymns and prayers.

He then sat and had tea with them, and was given various gifts - including a bottle of calvados made on site, at which he remarked: "It will blow my head off, I am sure."

Next, Charles took some time to speak to addicts who have used the monastery's rehabilitation programme, The Land of the Living.

During their visit to the Balkans, the Prince and Duchess of Cornwall have been hearing stories of the suffering of the people of the region, and seeing damage caused to their towns.

The area has seen a huge influx of refugees from Syria, now mainly confined to the borders.

Correction

WE are happy to correct a recent article which incorrectly described the new £378-£558 per night accommodation near the new lions' den at London Zoo as a "hotel". It is no such thing, according to the Zoo it is a "lodge". The new home for the Asiatic lions was opened by The Queen last week. The lodges will not be available for booking until May.

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

Sex, drugs and planning control – will new rules save London's music venues?

AS the centre stage for the biggest bands and a spotlight for emerging talent, they are the lifeblood of London's eclectic music scene.

But in the last 10 years more than a third of grassroots venues have disappeared from the city's musical map, *writes Jack Dixon.*

One by one, London has lost some of its most famous pubs and clubs – the Marquee Club, the Astoria, Madame Jojo's and Camden's Flowerpot to name but a few.

Cynics say nothing can be done to slow the steady decline of the traditional music venue. But perhaps all hope is not lost.

Allow me to introduce our hero: the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) Order 2016.

It's hardly the stuff of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll, but when the legislation passed through parliament last week – it comes into effect on April 6 – London's music venues were toasting a landmark moment.

A tweak to the rules means local councils must now give greater consideration to the noise impacts on residents moving into new homes near a venue.

It's designed to stop pubs and clubs that have been open for years being forced to close because of newcomers' angry complaints.

Mark Davyd, from the Music Venue Trust, explained: "This common sense move by the Government provides an opportunity for local authorities to use their powers to ensure that live music continues to play a vital economic, cultural and social role in our towns and cities.

"This is a major victory for the UK's music venues and music fans. The fight to protect, secure and improve them goes on."

So it would seem that London's precious gig venues, the places that made the names of the biggest British bands from The Who through to The Libertines and have been the breeding ground for the punk, indie and Britpop scenes over the last half a century, are still alive and kicking.

■ **LONDON CALLING: The Who play in the capital in 1964, main picture, and The Libertines in London 50 years later**

But bosses warn that though victory may have been secured in this particular battle, the war is not yet won.

Many years of blood, sweat and tears lie ahead to deliver the 'rescue package' of reforms set out last year by Boris Johnson's live music taskforce.

While recommending practical steps to change licensing laws and introduce a 'night mayor' to supervise London's evening economy, it also spoke of the need to "change the way we talk about" venues.

Boris's super squad of music boffs and industry gurus recognised the role of venues in nurturing talent and fermenting innovation, but warned that London's ever-increasing population and housing crisis means residential development is taking place "cheek-by-jowl" with the city's legendary nightlife.

"Although this is a great step forward, there is still plenty to be done," said Roger Tichbourne, from the Save London Music campaign. "Much hard work is needed to ensure we preserve our musical heritage."

Wartime hair styles

AFTER years spent growing his hair longer and longer, Harry Styles is now set to be shorn to within a quarter of an inch of his luscious-locked self.

But if you've got the money, you may be able to buy his tresses and make your own wig of them.

The One Direction idol is to go into the barber's chair to get a skinhead look for his new role as a movie star. Styles is to be dramatically re-styled with a Forties haircut for his part in the World War Two film *Dunkirk*.

Although Harry's part in *Batman* director Christopher Nolan's drama about the evacuation of the British Army from Dunkirk is said by movie magazine *Variety* to be a small one, for the purposes of authenticity he is be shaved.

Slaphead Styles will star alongside Oscar-winner Mark Rylance and Sir Kenneth Branagh in the movie, for which filming will begin in France and Kent this summer.

■ **CUT: Harry Styles has a film role in the making of *Dunkirk***

Harry recently told James Corden that he would stop growing his hair when it reached below his nipples and although the demands of his new Hollywood career mean that it is all coming off before it quite reaches that length, there will be compensation – he is to sell his locks for charity.

As there is enough of it to stuff a pillow, Harry's hair is expected to raise even more than the £76,000 paid in 2002 for a lock of Elvis Presley's famous quiff, which was chopped off when The King was drafted into the US Army in 1958.

Skiffle king who blazed trail for 60s' teenage explosion

MY old man's a butler…… *Downton Abbey's* Mr Carson is coming back to the screen, interviewing Beatles and other rock stars about their teenage hero, Skiffle king Lonnie Donegan.

In a new ITV documentary, *Jim Carter: Lonnie Donegan and Me*, the actor shares his life-long passion, which began aged 11 when he saw Lonnie play at a seaside variety theatre on a summer holiday, as he tells the story of his profound impact on pop culture and a generation of British musicians who went on to conquer the world.

The film features Jim's lively encounters with some of those seminal rockers who were inspired to take up music by Lonnie Donegan.

Sir Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Roger Daltrey and Sir Van Morrison tell Jim how, initially using tea chests, washboards and home-made guitars, they were inspired by Lonnie Donegan to make the music which would set them on the path to superstardom.

Later fans such as Jack White of The White Stripes also reflect on the importance of Lonnie as a figure in the development of popular music.

Though now almost forgotten or remembered for novelty hits like *My Old Man's A Dustman*, Lonnie was once the most famous singer in Britain. His high energy and self-styled Skiffle music helped the nation to shake off the postwar greyness of the1950s and jump-start the teenage music explosion of the 1960s.

"Without Lonnie there might have been no Beatles and the film exclusively airs the earliest known recording of 16-year-old John Lennon, singing one of Lonnie's hits with his Skiffle group The Quarrymen in 1957," said an ITV spokesman.

"It also unearths archive footage from Lonnie's hit prime time 1960s TV show, *Puttin' on the Donegan*, seen again for the first time since it aired.

"Jim traces Lonnie's rollercoaster life and career, meeting Lonnie's fans and family, including his first wife and his widow, as well as his son. And Jim's own wife, actress Imelda Staunton, reveals her views on life with a Lonnie Donegan fanatic. Said Jim: "For over 40 years I saw him perform and he was the most exciting thing I'd ever seen. He was the King of Skiffle, he changed music in this country – and for that, Lonnie, I thank you."

■ **LEGEND: Lonnie Donegan**

BY NICKY SWEETLAND AND JACK DIXON ● EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

BBC's biggest bigot is back

REPORTS that TV chiefs are to bring back *Till Death Us Do Part* and its bigoted star Alf Garnett are not quite the sign of politically-incorrect insanity at the BBC that they would seem.

Following the huge publicity that met the recent release of the *Dad's Army* film, the BBC is hoping to cash in on nostalgia by re-making a series of its classic comedies of yesteryear, including *Porridge, Up Pompeii, Steptoe & Son, Keeping Up Appearances, Are You Being Served, Hancock's Half Hour* and *Till Death Us Do Part.*

The news that the BBC is to revive the rantings of Alf Garnett raised eyebrows as TV pundits wondered how on earth would they manage that, in this inclusive age?

For those younger readers not familiar with Alf, i.e. anybody born after 1992, when his sequel *In Sickness And In Health* ended, let us quote from his Wikipedia listing, which gives a fair – although toned-down – assessment of his character:

"Alf was reactionary, mean-spirited, selfish, bigoted, anti-Irish, anti-Catholic, racist, misogynistic and anti-Semitic. He was also homophobic, largely because he had a gay black man whom he called 'Marigold' as his home help. The home help called him 'Bwana'. Alf was a working class man, and was a staunch Conservative, although he didn't support Margaret Thatcher because he believed that a woman's place was at home 'chained to the kitchen sink' and blamed Thatcher's husband Denis for not telling her 'to keep her place'."

One can understand then how it could be something of an uphill struggle for the BBC to present Alf as the new face of its comedy, revived to front its coming season celebrating 60 years of sitcoms. How, for instance, would a character who regularly and outrageously called Afro-Caribbean people "coons" be allowed onto the modern screen?

This must have been a point that the BBC executives seriously questioned as their Controller of Comedy Shane Allen devised plans for the sitcom series. Surely, one can hear them protest, there will be uproar across the now-enlightened land, not least as many of the original *Till Death Us Do Part* scripts would these days break the law by transgressing the rules on hate crime?

But the BBC has got around this dilemma by performing a clever shimmy. Instead of recreating one of Alf's typical episodes – i.e. one that would now rightly offend half of London – it has couched the comeback under the banner of the banner 'The Lost Sitcoms', which are, as the BBC puts it, "shows for which the original scripts still exist but the original recordings have vanished from the archives".

In fact, the original recordings did not "vanish" at all, the tapes were wiped, but that's by the by. What is interesting about the "lost" episode that the BBC has chosen to restage, originally made in 1967 and titled *A Woman's Place Is In The Home*, is that this episode is probably one of the least Alf-like episodes of all of the *Till Death Us Do Part* series.

We know this because although the video tape of the episode was wiped, the audio tape was not and it can still be found on YouTube. The episode is built around Alf complaining that he has no supper and his efforts to get some fish and chips. There is no racism, no homophobia, none of the usual anti-Jewish jibes, just a lot of sexist and tedious shouting.

Although many will breathe a sigh of relief that the BBC is wisely playing safe by remaking the highly unrepresentative episode, which does not live up to the publicity claim that it is a "classic", it does beg the question of why is the BBC bothering to screen it at all?

■ **SHUT IT: Warren Mitchell as Alf Garnett and Dandy Nichols as Else Garnett in *Till Death Us Do Part***

ONE of the greatest albums ever made will be performed live in Hyde Park this summer as Stevie Wonder stages his masterpiece *Songs In The Key of Life* in its entirety.

Tickets are the must-see show on July 10th are selling like the clappers as thousands want to experience one is reckoned to be one of the best gigs of all time.

The Songs In The Key of Life Tour has run for 18 months in the USA, having been extended many times due to phenomenal public demand. At last it is coming to the UK for this, the album's 40th anniversary year.

Released in 1976 on Motown Records and featuring the hits *Sir Duke, Isn't She Lovely* and *I Wish*, it is cited as an influence on many of the world's biggest stars, including Elton John, Prince, Michael Jackson and Pharrell. It was crowned Grammy Album Of The Year in 1977 and is rightfully hailed as a true work of art.

Elton John said of it, "Let me put it this way: wherever I go in the world, I always take a copy of *Songs In The Key of Life*. For me, it's the best album ever made and I'm always left in awe after I listen to it. When people in decades and centuries to come talk about the history of music, they will talk about Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder."

■ **ICONIC ALBUM: Stevie Wonder's classic 1976 LP release *Songs In The Key of Life* is one greatest albums in music history**

Kanye West added: "I'm not trying to compete with what's out there now. I'm really trying to compete with *Songs In The Key of Life*. It sounds musically blasphemous to say something like that, but why not set that as your bar?"

The Hyde Park gig's promoter, James King of AEG Live, said: "I can't think of a better way for us to announce our final act for British Summer Time Hyde Park than with Stevie Wonder's masterpiece *Songs In The Key of Life*, arguably the greatest album ever performed, by one of the greatest recording artists and live performers of all time. It's a historic event that cannot be missed."

Write way to help stars end poverty

WEST London amateur lyricists who fancy getting onto the ladder to become millionaires by writing for the likes of Kanye West, Ellie Goulding and Mumford And Sons have just days left before they miss their chance.

March 31 is the closing date for lyrics to be submitted by fans for a compilation album being organised by the anti-poverty organisation Global Citizen.

The 12-track *Metamorphoses* album will feature new songs written by West, Goulding, the Mumfords, The National and other artists, all based on fans' lyrics. The anti-poverty organisation hosts its Global Citizen Festival every year in New York, organised with help from Coldplay's Chris Martin. Last year's event saw Beyoncé, Ed Sheeran and Pearl Jam performing.

This year the Mumfords' Ben Lovett will curate the album, which will give a big break to unknown songwriters.

"*Metamorphoses* has the potential to break down our preconceptions of the voices of creativity, what different people around the world are thinking and who has the right to be heard," says Lovett.

"In my own life, I've experienced people trying to define me and put me in boxes and categories. Through collaboration we can show people how those lines can be blurred and are ultimately redundant. The artists involved in this project are some of the most genuine artists the world has to offer.

"Artists like Kanye West, and The National are doing something globally important that is touching people down to their DNA. And these masterfully creative people are going to be interpreting incredible submissions from people across the globe.

"It has been a joy reading all of the submissions we received over the past six months. I'm truly excited to see what we will create together."

■ **SOUND THINKING: Ellie Goulding will feature on an anti-poverty album**

■ To get your lyrics to the stars who may turn them into hits, go to *globalcitizen.org*

Talk of the town

Ben takes tough line as Beverley's guardian angel

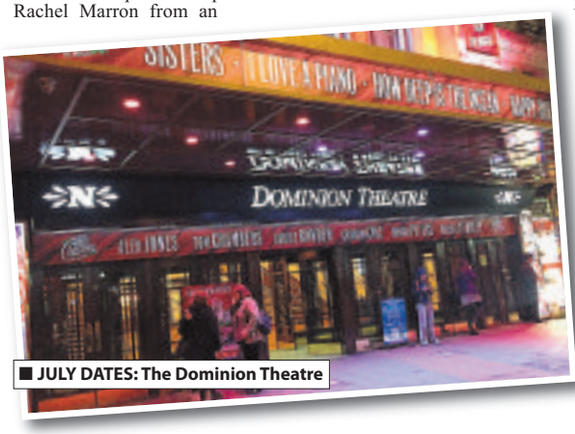
BEN Richards will join previously announced Beverley Knight in the international hit musical *The Bodyguard* when it returns to the West End for a limited six-month run in July.

Richards will play Frank Farmer, Rachel Marron's bodyguard, alongside Beverley Knight in the leading role of the Oscar-nominated superstar Marron.

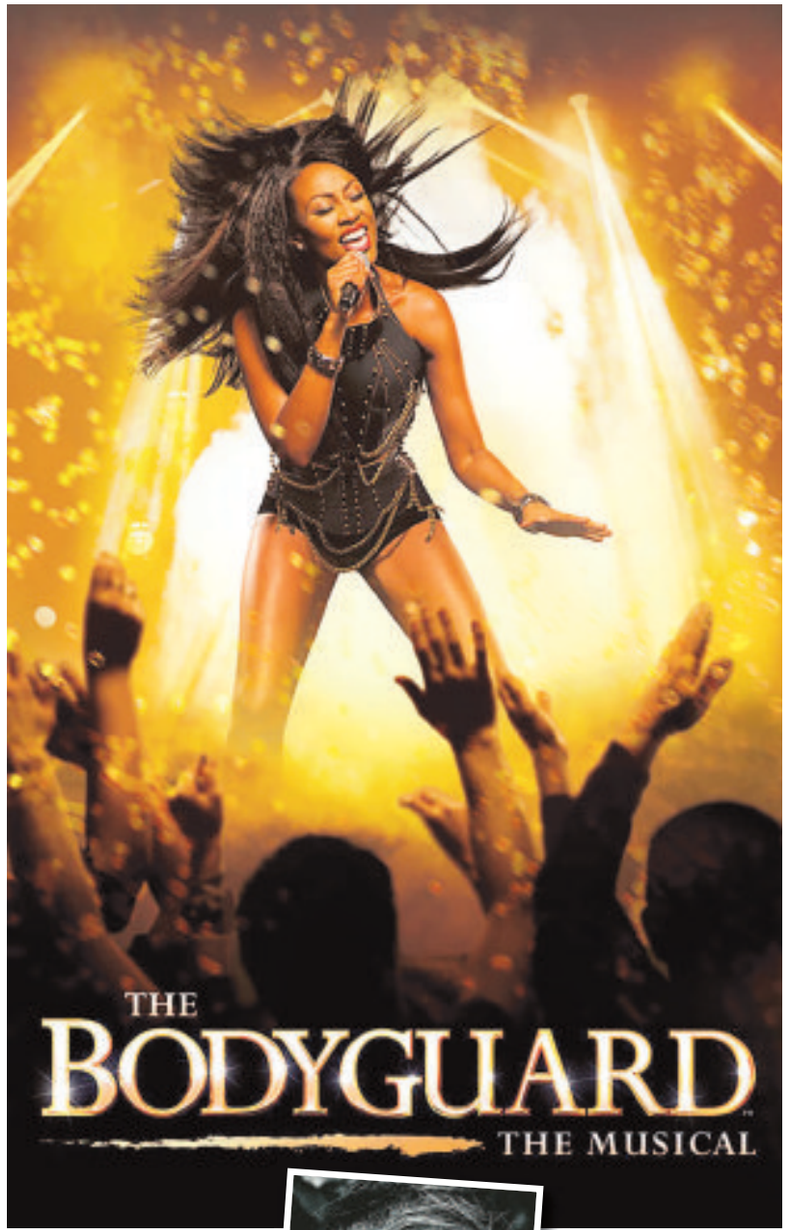
Performances begin at the Dominion Theatre on July 15 for this strictly limited season, to January 7.

Former secret service agent turned bodyguard Frank Farmer is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge; what they don't expect is to fall in love. A romantic thriller, *The Bodyguard* features a whole host of irresistible classics including *Queen of the Night, So Emotional, One Moment in Time, Saving All My Love, I'm Your Baby Tonight, Run to You, I Have Nothing, I Wanna Dance With Somebody* and one of the greatest hit songs of all time – *I Will Always Love You.*

Richards can currently be seen in *Hollyoaks* playing Sergeant Ben Bradley, a role he has been playing for just over a year. Previously on television he played Nate Roberts in *The Bill*, Bruno Milligan in *Footballer's Wives,* as well as roles in *Doctors* and *Holby City*. His many leading roles in musical theatre include Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* on tour and in the West End, Danny Zuko in *Grease* at the Victoria Palace Theatre and on tour, Tony Manero in *Saturday Night Fever* at the London Palladium and on tour, Jerry Lukowski in *The Full Monty* at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Tick in *Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical* at the Palace Theatre, Bill Sykes in *Oliver* at the Sheffield Crucible – as well as Franklyn Hart in *9-5* and Stacee Jaxx in *Rock of Ages*, both on tour.



■ JULY DATES: The Dominion Theatre

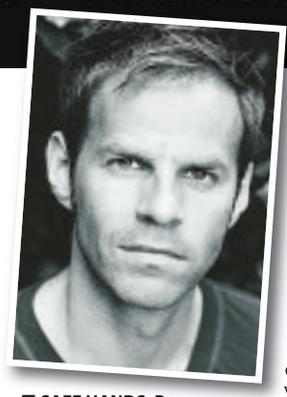


Queen of British soul Beverley Knight is a singer, songwriter and record producer who has been one of the UK's most consistent artists since the release of her debut album in 1995.

She has sold over a million albums in the UK, scoring several top 10s and four gold certified albums as well as the platinum selling *Voice: The Best of Beverley Knight*.

To date, she has won three MOBO Awards, an Outstanding Achievement Award at the Urban Music Awards, been three times nominated for Best Female at the Brit Awards, as well as for the prestigious Mercury Music Prize and was also awarded an MBE for her services to music and charity in 2007.

Knight has presented four series of Radio 2 show *Beverley's Gospel Nights* and appeared in two series of hit BBC1 show *Just The Two of Us* as well as appearing on stage with the likes of Prince, Stevie Wonder and Take That. In 2012 she wowed a viewing audience of one billion with a rendition of the song *I Am What I Am* at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.


■ SAFE HANDS: Ben Richards protects Beverley Knight in The Bodyguard

Knight originally played the leading role of Rachel Marron in *The Bodyguard* at the Adelphi Theatre to great acclaim in 2013. She followed this by playing the role of Felicia in *Memphis The Musical* at the Shaftesbury Theatre, for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best Actress in a Musical, and recently completed a hugely successful run at the London Palladium playing Grizabella in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats*. Knight will be releasing her eighth studio album this spring, her first in almost five years, as well as embarking on a solo tour across the UK in May and June.

Thea Sharrock's production of *The Bodyguard* received its world premiere at the Adelphi Theatre in November 2012, where it opened to critical acclaim, with Heather Headley as Marron. Due to public demand the show's run was extended. In 2013 Knight joined the cast and took over the lead role. The show continued to play to packed houses and released a further 300,000 tickets. Alexandra Burke followed Knight as Marron in June 2014 and continues to play the role in the show's UK and Ireland sell-out tour, which completes its run in June.

Talk of the town

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

■ MUSIC MAN: Cedric Neal plays Gordy

Celebration of Motown hit parade

Motown The Musical ***

THE tried and tested formula of the jukebox musical is once again proving to be very popular in the West End – and with the baby boom generation having both the disposable cash and time on their hands, this latest addition is likely to be just as profitable.

Motown The Musical, at the Shaftesbury Theatre, is the new kid on the block and as the name suggests, is filled with classic songs from the world-famous record label, which originally produced acts like the Supremes and Marvin Gaye, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The show is written by Berry Gordy and has the renowned record producer as the leading character in the semi biopic tale of hard fought success against the odds in a world which was still engrained with racism and oppression.

Cedric Neal plays Gordy and is the embodiment of the cool and suave industry leader with a gloriously gravelly voice and the utmost charm. His vision and drive lead many of the artists to achieve huge success and audiences are treated to a multitude of hits, including *Dancing in the Street* and the fabulous *ABC* by an extremely authentic Jackson 5 complete with the winner of the cute factor, little Michael.

The story also touches on the relationship between Gordy and Motown superstar Diana Ross, who is played with absolute aplomb by Lucy St Louis. The pair provide the most inspiring elements of an otherwise fairly bland storyline with St Louis' transformation from school girl to dazzling diva showcasing the actress' exceptional ability.

Following its success on Broadway, *Motown* is likely to be a big hit with the more mature theatre-going public in London, who would seemingly prefer to see a show with songs they are already familiar with rather than something original. This show is a hit factory, with song after song shoehorned in, and as long as you're not expecting an enthralling storyline, it fulfils the jukebox musical criteria perfectly.

■ **MOTOWN GOLD: Motown The Musical touches on the relationship between Gordy and Motown superstar Diana Ross who is played with absolute aplomb by Lucy St Louis, pictured here, centre**
Picture: Hugo Glendinning

MAYOR OF LONDON &
LONDON ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

THURSDAY
5
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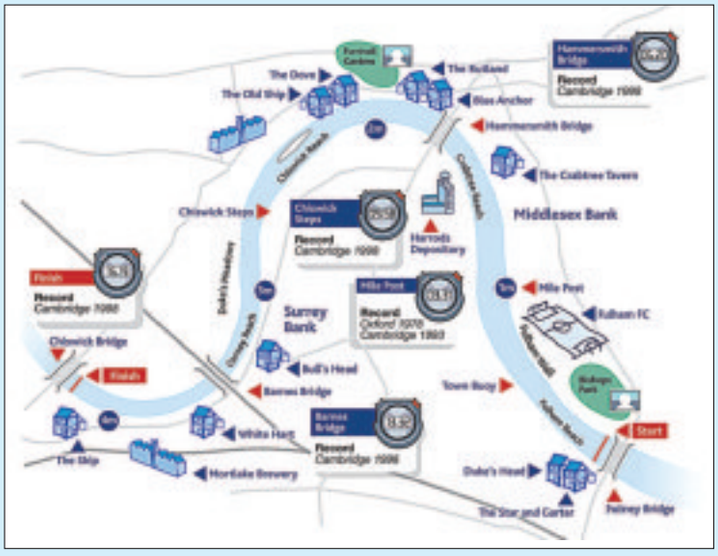

OARSOME: The 4.2-mile course starts at Putney Bridge and finishes just before Chiswick Bridge. Winning the toss and choosing the correct bank, depending on the weather conditions, can give the crew a decisive advantage

m6457

By JOANNA KAMENOU

FOR most people, the Easter Bank Holiday weekend means chocolate eggs, family gatherings and even a brief trip away.

But for the Oxford and Cambridge University rowing crews competing in the Cancer Research UK Boat Races on March 27, it is all about winning.

Since the first contest on February, 10 1829, when two old Harrow school friends named Charles Wordsworth and Charles Merivale, challenged each other to a race at Henley-on-Thames, the event has become a feature of the British sporting calendar.

The first women's competition was held in 1929, and last year, was the first occasion that the men and women's race occurred on the same Championship course.

With more than 250,000 spectators lining the River Thames last year, it is one of the largest free sporting events to take place in London.

Starting at Putney Bridge, the competing crews will pass under Hammersmith Bridge and Barnes Bridge before finishing just before Chiswick Bridge – a total of 4.2 miles.

Mark Minshall, 34, is general manager at The Star and Garter wine bar and restaurant in Putney which is located next to the race start line.

He said: "Last year was my first experience of watching the race at the start.

"It is very much like a festival and the streets are packed full of people. There is a real carnival atmosphere.

"For us, it is one of the busiest days of the year and something that needs plenty of preparation."

The four crews racing this year, which is the 162nd men's race and 71st women's contest, are called the Blue Boats, named after the award that the universities give racers for competing.

Steer

Eight-oared rowing boats are used in the competition by the same number of rowers, with a cox who will steer the racers.

The crews contain a combination of undergraduates, post graduates, returning racers, members of the previous year's reserve crew and also some experienced oversees rowers or new starters who have graduated from the junior ranks.

Several famous faces have taken part previously, including four-time British Olympic Gold medalist Matthew Pinsent and British actor Hugh Laurie.

Cancer Research UK are the 2016 partners for the boat race and Frances Milner, executive director of philanthropic partnerships and development at Cancer Research UK, said: "Cancer Research UK is absolutely delighted to be partnering with the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Races in 2016.

"Not only will the partnership raise significant funds for our research to help patients, but it will also play an important role in helping us raise awareness of cancer, highlighting the steps that everyone can take to reduce their risk of getting this dreadful disease."

Like the historical universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the event is full of tradition and ritual, such as the toss of an 1829 gold sovereign coin to choose which side of the river the teams will race on.

The race can be seen live on BBC One and there are also viewing points along the riverside at Putney, Hammersmith, Barnes and Chiswick.

Oxford have been dominant in recent times, with the men and women's team winning in four of the last five meetings.

The Cambridge rowing crews last won the competition in 2012, when both teams were victorious.

This year, Oxford are favourites once again as Cambridge look to avenge their recent losses.

Sponsored by Thames Rowing Club

Thames Rowing Club is one of the oldest, largest and most successful rowing clubs in the UK. With members ranging from juniors to veterans, and novices to international athletes, the club has been a feature of the Putney Embankment for 156 years.

Within the last year Thames has won medals at Henley Royal and Henley Women's Regattas and junior rower Oscar Bird competed for Great Britain at the Junior World Championships.

Thames has a long relationship with the Boat Race. A number of alumni from both Oxford and Cambridge have joined Thames after winning their Blues and for the past two years the club has been proud to host Cambridge University Women's Boat Club for their pre-race training and fixtures on the Tideway.

Scenes for the 1996 film True Blue, which told the story of the 1987 Boat Race 'mutiny', were filmed in the Victorian clubhouse. Renovated since then, the stunning hall which featured in the movie is a popular venue for weddings and parties throughout the year, offering spectacular views of the ever-changing river flowing past the balcony and a true slice of Tideway history.

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m6456

PULLING TOGETHER: The two university male and female crews. Inset, Boat Race founders Charles Merivale and Charles Wordsworth

GETTY IMAGES: m6458

The Spencer

The Spencer is a handsome Victorian Free house adjacent to Putney Common and but a short stroll to arguably the best rowing-watching vantage points on the Thames. During the summer months it boasts extensive bench seating on the common and especially for the Boat Race, a pop up bar at the start line by the river and big screen in the pub.

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Talk of the town

■ **EXCITING INTERPRETATION: Top, Katie Webb (Feral), Andrew Monaghan (Tantrum), and Kate Lyons (Hiberna). Bottom: Adam Maskell (Carabosse) and Christopher Marney (Count Lilac)** Pictures: Johan Persson

This classic is Bourne to run and run

MATTHEW Bourne's dazzling production of *Sleeping Beauty* will pirouette its way into the New Wimbledon Theatre this week as part of its nationwide tour, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The production, which has received widespread critical acclaim, adds a haunting Gothic edge to the classic story and sees the beautiful cursed princess Aurora awaken in the modern day; an age with even more mystery than a fairy tale. I had a chat to princess Aurora, Ashley Shaw and her real life partner Adam Maskell, who plays the evil Carabosse/Caradoc.

The couple live just down the road in Earlsfield and are looking forward to playing at their home venue as part of the tour.

Ashley tells me about the show. "It's known as the gothic romance and it's kind of a different twist on the fairytale that we all know and love. It's got a bit of a darker element, some vampires and things like that. It's an amazing show."

Ashley is originally from Sydney, Australia but has been dancing with Matthew Bourne's New Adventure company for many years and having worked her way up from the ensemble has played many of the leading roles in some his most acclaimed productions, including *Cinderella and the Sugar Plum Fairy* opposite partner Adam's Nutcracker.

Ashley said: "I'm really lucky to have played so many amazing parts. His (Bourne's) work is just perfect for me and it's what I wanted to do."

The 55-year-old Bourne, who is originally from Walthamstow, was recently awarded a knighthood for services to dance, the first ever modern dance figure to be knighted.

His charity, called Re:Bourne, was founded in 2008 and aims to encourage new audiences into the world of ballet as well as inspiring young dancers. He is well known for taking classic works and giving them a contemporary or different twist to help bring ballet to a new audience. I asked Ashley how important she feels this is.

"It's extremely important because as the world develops I think we need to keep up with that as well. I think, as beautiful as the traditional and classics are, it's important to change with the times as well and try and tie a younger audience in so we can keep this amazing art form alive and I think that's what he does brilliantly. He makes it accessible to the everyday men."

Ashley's partner Adam was born in Kingston and trained at the Laine Arts theatre school in Epsom. He is playing the maleficent Carabosse, the sorceress who casts the spell on Aurora to send her to sleep for one hundred years. Adam dances in full female regalia, including a corset for the role, but then changes into her son Caradoc for the second part of the story.

■ **RISING STARS: Dominic North (Leo) and Ashley Shaw (Aurora), main picture, and Shaw (Aurora) inset.** Pictures: Johan Persson

Adam said: "They're two great characters to play. It's nice to play an evil character rather than a charming prince."

Bourne's ballets have become acclaimed for their use of male dancers in traditional female roles. His West End version of *Swan Lake* famously saw the swans played by men and became the longest running ballet both in London and on Broadway. I asked Adam how important he felt opening up the genre to men and boys had become.

He said: "The girls are very, very special in his company but one of things he's famous for is changing the male swans. It highlights male dancers and the athletesim of male dance, which is incredible and it's completely opened it up to so many other people."

Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* is a radical reworking of the Tchaikovsky classic, with additional elements of dance through the ages but a strong focus on the favourite children's story. I ask Ashley what the audiences in Wimbledon can look forward to from the production.

"They'll get fabulous dancing, amazing costumes and set. It's just a truly beautiful love story and fairy tale with a happy ending."

Sleeping Beauty runs at the New Wimbledon Theatre from March 22 to 26. For more information you can visit the website *atgtickets.com*

Talk of the town

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

A FREE show featuring the urban development of Battersea Power station is attracting interested audiences after its world premiere.

The Jerwood/FVU Awards exhibition *Borrowed Time* features a new video by Alice May Williams, who was listed for the Dazed Emerging Artist 2015 and Catlin Art Guide 2015. Her film about the iconic Battersea power plant playfully explores online imagery and combines archive footage from its industrial heyday with computer-generated renders of the future.

Together with Karen Kramer, the emerging talents received major commissions of £20,000 each to realise significant new moving image works. Inspired by the exhibition theme, borrowed time, a reflection on the uncertain nature of our contemporary economic and ecological moment, both artists explore the legacy of power stations. While Kramer captured unique shots of the recovering landscape of Fukushima, Williams dedicated her work to the urban development of Battersea.

Never has there been a time, perhaps, where we have borrowed so much against the future economically – from the loans and mortgages of domestic realities to the sophisticated economics of financial derivatives. And never has there been a moment, perhaps, where that feeling of living on borrowed time, of a clock ticking louder and louder, has reverberated so ominously ecologically.

Williams' work is described as "a meditation on the changing face of London's landmark Battersea Power Station – a smokestack energy colossus of yesteryear now rapidly transforming into a lifestyle playground of tomorrow.

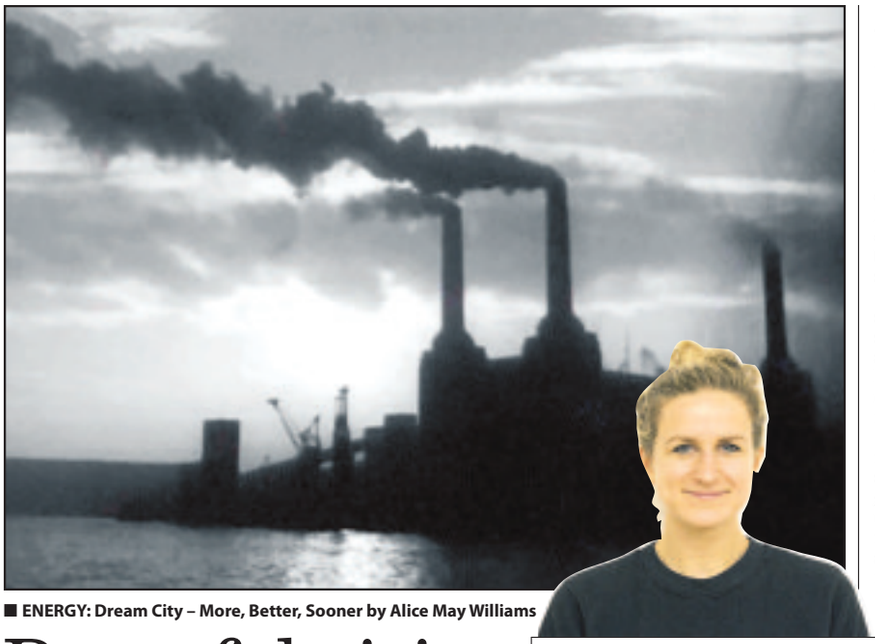
"Combining archive footage of the building in its industrial heyday with computer-generated projections of what it may soon become, Williams' film attempts to concentrate our attention on the present moment. Reflecting the language of the philosophy of mindfulness, an extended monologue warns of the temptation of succumbing to memories of the past, and of the distractions of speculations about the future, while at the same time undermining its heightened focus on the here-and-now, a key principle of mindfulness. It is unclear from where or whom these words originate.

"As the images roll by, Williams reminds us that Battersea's marshy riverside location has frequently been a site of flux and transformation; its recent history of power generation paralleled by the various fairgrounds and expos that have happened (or been proposed) near this spot – places of immersion and convergence, as well as places of escape."

Avoiding romantic notions about the power of nature as a force for recovery or transformation, Kramer's film, with its apparent contrasts between the pristine environment of Shiretoko and the blasted wilderness of Fukushima, is a reminder of how our reading of the landscape is deeply subjective, and prone to being clouded by myth, or partial knowledge.

The free show runs until April 24 at Jerwood Space, at 171 Union Street, London – four minutes' walk from Borough station on the Northern Line and Southwark station on the Jubilee line – before moving to CCA in Glasgow.

If you would like more information you may like to visit the website *jerwoodspace.co.uk*



■ ENERGY: Dream City – More, Better, Sooner by Alice May Williams

Powerful vision of our world's changing face

■ SEA VIEW: The Eye That Articulates Belongs on Land by Karen Kramer

Zerdin axes autumn shows

THE *America's Got Talent* 2015 winner, British ventriloquist and comedian Paul Zerdin, has cancelled some of his UK tour dates after being offered a headlining slot in Las Vegas.

Zerdin and his band of sharp-tongued characters are set to bring their comedy and hilarious antics to The Las Vegas Strip in an all-new, headlining production from April 30.

Zerdin will be performing in Las Vegas following his spring UK tour, *Spongefinger*, which is coming to venues across the UK this April, including a three-night stint at the Udderbelly in London from April 14 to 16.

On the announcement of the Las Vegas shows Zerdin said: "It's every entertainer's dream to have their own show on The Las Vegas Strip. I'm thrilled that my dream is coming true, but my characters aren't giving me a moment's peace before we join the ranks of other Las Vegas headliners."

Due to these circumstances Zerdin will unfortunately no longer be touring across the UK in September and October. However, the April dates of his tour are scheduled to go ahead as planned.

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

■ EASTER TREAT: Goats' cheese mousse with warm apple and beetroot salad

WHATEVER your Easter tradition, chances are it will involve food – and lots of it.

But pleasing the crowd isn't always as simple as plying them with hot cross buns and chocolate goodies (although this is highly encouraged, as well).

If you really want to be the Bank Holiday hostess with the mostess, up the ante by putting on a fancy sit-down spread that will put you at the top of the pecking order. We're talking fine-dining-standard starter, a striking lamb main with heaped sides of seasonal veggies, and a decadent dessert that will have your guests gasping with delight (and possibly disbelief, if you manage to pull off the presentation too).

Don't forget the little details... Ensure guests are welcomed and kept topped up with an array of fab drinks, and why not make a little effort with the table decor too? Just a few simple touches – some spring flowers or painted eggs as a centrepiece, can really add to the sense of occasion.

Feeling inspired? Now all you need are some recipes. Here is one that Mike Bates, executive head chef of The Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Wales, whipped up earlier...

GOAT'S CHEESE MOUSSE WITH WARM APPLE AND BEETROOT SALAD

(*Serves 6 as a starter*)

For the mousse: 200g Pantys-Gawn goats' cheese (available in Waitrose; but any goats''cheese will do); 250g double cream; 1 leaf of gelatine; salt and pepper

For the salad: 1 green apple; Baby heirloom beetroots; pinch of salt and sugar; splash of wine vinegar; mMixed leaves to serve

For the dressing: 1 shallot, finely chopped; 50g sherry vinegar; 100g honey; 100g olive oil; 50g sesame oil.

Soften the goats' cheese by bringing up to room temperature and soak the gelatine leaf in very cold water for 10 minutes.

Whip 200g of the double cream to soft peaks. Place the other 50g of cream and the drained gelatine in a small pan. Heat gently until the gelatine dissolves, and then mix with the cheese to form a paste. Fold this into the whipped cream, season to taste and refrigerate until set.

Serve the mousse with a warm apple and beetroot salad.

Ideally, use baby heirloom beetroot and cook each colour separately in their skins in water, with a pinch each of salt and sugar and a splash of wine vinegar. When ready, carefully remove the skins.

Prepare your dressing, by combining all the ingredients, and then soak the beetroot in the dressing. Meanwhile, cut your green apple into matchsticks.

Arrange the apple pieces, beetroot and green leaves on individual plates, with a scoop of cheese mousse in the centre.

BELINDA DONOVAN

I SIT with Arabella and Ben Wray having a delicious cappuccino and nibbling on a fabulous cake dipped in vanilla chocolate in an après-ski cabin looking out onto the most amazing alpine landscape.

No, I am not in a super glamorous alpine resort, but in Fulham, where they talk enthusiastically about their launch of Chel-Ski – where you can come and learn to ski or snowboard just off The New King's Road.

Next door is Clip 'N Climb, an indoor climbing area for both adults and children which was launched two years ago – and their follow-up has already taken off.

Chel-Ski caters for all ages from five up (three and four year olds are welcome during private family slope time and one-to-one sessions) from complete beginners to Olympic downhill racers. The learning process for skiing is ten times quicker than for usual ski lessons and you start by learning how not to fumble getting on skis and dropping your gloves at the start.

Chel-Ski is perfect for corporate entertainment and private parties and French evenings will be starting up soon. Keep an eye out for the fabulous mountain food menu coming soon too!

Regular sessions are available to book as singles or blocks of six or ten – watch put for the soon-to-be-available monthly passes!

The stunning alpine cafe with log cabin decor was conceived by Tor Interiors and the mountain landscape is the largest of the largest panorama ever made of Mont Blanc by *in2White*.

To book your ski or snowboarding lesson call 020 3829 6961 or e mail the team at *info@chel-ski.uk*. For corporate enquiries contact their event manager at *jo.whittaker@chel-ski-uk*

Clip 'N Climb sessions can be booked online *www.clipnclimbchelsea.co.uk*

Asparagus with crispy lamb's sweetbreads and capers

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Serves four

ASK your butcher for the heart sweetbreads, which are plumper and less sinewy.

250g plump lamb sweetbreads A little olive or rapeseed oil for frying 300-350g asparagus, woody ends removed 2tbsp capers, rinsed 60g butter 1tbsp chopped parsley

Put the sweetbreads in a pan of cold salted water, bring to the boil, simmer for a minute; drain. Leave to cool; remove any sinewy membranes and cut them into even-sized pieces. Heat a tablespoon of oil in a pan, season the sweetbreads; fry them on a medium heat for 4-5 minutes, turning them as they are cooking until they begin to crisp. While the sweetbreads are cooking, put the asparagus in boiling salted water for 3-4 minutes until just cooked; drain. Add the butter to the pan with the sweetbreads until it begins to colour; remove from the heat; stir in the capers and parsley.

To serve, arrange the asparagus on warmed serving plates and spoon the sweetbreads, capers and butter on top.

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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

VARIOUS ROADS

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the safe movement of traffic and pedestrians during the 2016 Universities Boat Race on the River Thames, it made an Order the effect of which imposes temporary restrictions on vehicular traffic as shown in Articles 4 and 5 of this notice.
2. The Order would come into operation on the 23rd March 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months.
3. The temporary restrictions of this order do not apply in respect of:
   (i) a vehicle being used for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes,
   (ii) anything done with the permission of a police constable in uniform or a Council employed parking attendant,
   (iii) a vehicle or trailer authorised by an officer from the Council to be used in connection with the said Boat Races.
4. On the day of the 2016 Boat Race, when instructed by Council employees and whilst the authorised traffic signs are in place, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed across, stop, wait, load or unload on Hammersmith Bridge.
5. For the duration of this order and whilst the authorised traffic signs are in place, no person shall cause any vehicle to stop, wait, load or unload between 8am and midnight, on the day the 2016 University Boat Race on the River Thames takes place and four days before that day, in the roads specified in this schedule:
   (a) BRIDGE VIEW.
   (b) HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE ROAD, between Rutland Grove and Lower Mall.
   (c) MALL ROAD.
   (d) OIL MILL LANE.
   (e) QUEEN CAROLINE STREET, the north-east to south-west arm, the north-west side, from a point 12.00 metres north-east of its south-westernmost extremity to a point 62.00 metres north-east of that extremity.
   (f) RIVERCOURT ROAD, between Great West Road and Upper Mall.
   (g) RUTLAND GROVE.
   (h) SOUTH BLACK LION LANE.
   (i) STEVENAGE ROAD, the south-west side, from a point 3.75 metres north-west of the common boundary of Nos. 14 and 16 Stevenage Road, to a point 15.00 metres south-east of that point.
   (j) WELTJE ROAD, between Great West Road and Upper Mall.

Dated this 15th day of March 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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FELIX OTTO BRENNER
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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 2 Callow Street, London SW3 6BE, who died on 05/02/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 30/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Harbottle & Lewis, Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1S 1HP. Ref: 442/247597/1

HELGE KRAUSE MAGNUSSEN
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 7b Cresswell Place, London SW10 9RD, who died on 04/07/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 30/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

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PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

2 And 4 Tadmor Street London W12 8AH 2016/01040/FUL
Erection of rear roof extensions involving an increase in the ridge height to both properties at no. 2 and 4 Tadmor Street; raising the eaves height of the main front roof, raising the party walls and a chimney stack at roof level; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope of no. 2 Tadmor Street and 1no rooflight to no. 4 Tadmor Street.

3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33A, 33 Danehurst Street London SW6 6SA 2016/00917/FUL
Erection of front mansard roof extensions to No's. 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33A, 33 Danehurst Street.

67 Clonmel Road London SW6 5BL 2016/01054/FUL
Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell, installation of a door and two windows to rear elevation in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

48 Ravenscourt Gardens London W6 0TU 2016/00984/FUL
Replacement of existing roof slates with new roof slates.

Flat C First And Second Floors 24 Brackenbury Road London W6 0BA 2016/01108/FUL
Replacement of existing dormer windows with new enlarged dormer windows in the front and rear roofslope; installation of 1no rooflight in the front roofslope and 2no rooflights over the main flat roof at roof level.

49 Reporton Road London SW6 7JP 2016/01122/VAR
Variation of wording of condition 13 of planning permission ref: 2015/04295/FUL granted 13th November 2015 to read as 'In order that the Council can update its records to ensure that the appropriate parking permits may be issued to each of the new flats.'

Banstead Court 60 Westway London W12 0QJ 2015/04686/FUL
Installation of fixed glazed rooflights to replace the existing at roof level to all five blocks A-E.

46 Ashcombe Street London SW6 3AN 2016/01061/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition following removal of the existing roof terrace; removal of part of the pitched roof of the back addition at second floor level to form a roof terrace enclosed with a slate covered balustrade; and installation of French doors to the rear elevation at second floor level in order to allow access to the roof terrace.

17 South Black Lion Lane London W6 9TJ 2016/00784/FUL
Installation of an air conditioning unit on the flat roof of the ground floor rear extension at first floor level.

144 Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7PB 2016/01127/VAR
Variation of Condition 3 of planning permission reference: 2014/00525/FUL allowed on Appeal (ref: APP/H5390/W/15/3073505) on 30th November 2015 for the "change of use of basement and ground floor from a Veterinary Surgery (Class D1) and office (Class B1) to a coffee shop (Class A1/A3)." A variation is required to an area of the premises at rear to achieve a new standard recommended within the noise report.

38 Clonmel Road London SW6 5BJ 2016/01055/FUL
Erection of a front roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 200mm; increase height of the existing rear roof extension by 200mm.

27 Wingate Road London W6 0UR 2016/01139/FUL
Erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main dwellinghouse.

Cambridge House 100 Cambridge Grove London W6 0LE 2016/00970/FUL
Refurbishment and enlargement of the existing office building through; an extension of the central block at roof level; extension of the central block on the northern elevation, relocating the staircase; alterations and extensions to western block and; the erection of a new eastern block off the central block, comprising ground plus five storeys; together with two x 3 storey, 4-bed residential units fronting Banim Street; associated car and cycle parking, landscaping and plant; a gated pedestrian route to Banim Street and entrance gates fronting Cambridge Grove.

29 Lord Napier Place London W6 9UB 2016/00735/FUL
Excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the extension of the existing basement; and erection of an external staircase from the rear lightwell up to the rear access gate.

14 Dorville Crescent London W6 0HJ 2016/00934/FUL
Installation of a new door in the rear roofslope; removal of the chimney stack and the erection of obscure glazed screen around part of the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with its use as a terrace; installation of 1no rooflight in the front roofslope.

27 - 33 King Street London W6 9HW 2016/01018/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated fascia sign and 2no. internally illuminated projecting signs on the front elevation fronting King Street; display of 2no. internally illuminated fascia signs on the rear elevation fronting Black's Road.

19 Poplar Grove London W6 7RF 2016/01142/FUL
Excavation of the front, side and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

2, 4, 6, 8, And 10 Woolneigh Street London SW6 3AX 2016/01155/FUL
Erection of front roof extensions to property nos. 2, 4, 6, 8 And 10 Woolneigh Street.

29 Coniger Road London SW6 3TB 2016/00382/FUL
Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of metal railings at the front of the property at ground floor level.

Flat Third Floor 2 Maclise Road London W14 0PR 2016/01029/FUL
Retention of a roof terrace at roof level and access stairs.

1 Rylett Studios 77 Rylett Crescent London W12 9RP 2016/00671/FUL
Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/04791/FUL granted 18th December 2015 for the 'Change of use of the existing building from office (Class B1) into 1 x 4 bedroom single family dwellinghouse (Class C3); formation of a roof terrace at first floor to the side elevation; installation of 2no rooflights in the side roofslope; installation of a new window to replace the existing door at ground floor level to the front elevation.'
Amendments to include installation of 1no rooflight in the side roofslope, bricking up of 1no window at first floor level and 1no window at ground floor level to the side elevation, installation of a new window and door to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the side elevation.

31 Perrymead Street London SW6 3SN 2016/01010/FUL
Excavation of the rear and part of the front garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to garden level at the rear of the property.

443 North End Road London SW6 1NY 2016/01003/FUL
Alterations to the main flat roof at roof level to include installation of a glazed roof access hatch and the erection of metal balustrades around part of the roof in connection with its use as a terrace.

Flat Basement 33 Richford Street London W6 7HJ 2016/01042/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; replacement of existing door with a window to the side of the single storey back addition; replacement of existing window with a door at ground floor level to the rear elevation.

4 Ravenscourt Square London W6 0TW 2016/01068/VAR
Variation of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 2015/01842/FUL granted 16th June 2015 to allow amendments to the approved plans to include increasing the height of the first floor rear extension by 400mm.

26 Coniger Road London SW6 3TA 2016/01084/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

35 Lime Grove London W12 8EE 2016/01099/FUL
Erection of a rear dormer roof extension; installation of double doors to rear elevation at first floor level to replace existing door; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; erection of a timber clad bin store in the front garden.

19 Niton Street London SW6 6NH 2016/01004/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension to replace existing; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

48 Ravenscourt Gardens London W6 0TU 2016/00985/LBC
Replacement of existing roof slates with new roof slates.

Olympia Exhibition Centre Hammersmith Road London W14 8UX 2016/01135/LBC
Refurbishment of 5No. visitor toilet areas to include full removal of existing floor, ceiling and wall finishes to replace with new; formation of 1No. new structural opening, enlargement and reopening of 2No. existing openings; associated internal alterations.

163 The Grampians Shepherd's Bush Road London W6 7NB 2016/01130/LBC
Retention of a 1.01 meter high timber trellis to external balcony.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

48 Ravenscourt Gardens London W6 0TU 2016/00984/FUL
Replacement of existing roof slates with new roof slates.

29 Lord Napier Place London W6 9UB 2016/00735/FUL
Excavation of the rear garden to form a lightwell in connection with the extension of the existing basement; and erection of an an external staircase from the rear lightwell up to the rear access gate.

27 - 33 King Street London W6 9HW 2016/01018/ADV
Display of an internally illuminated fascia sign and 2no. internally illuminated projecting signs on the front elevation fronting King Street; display of 2no. internally illuminated fascia signs on the rear elevation fronting Black's Road.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 10th April 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

Cambridge House 100 Cambridge Grove London W6 0LE 2016/00970/FUL
I give notice that The Aircraft Factory Hammersmith Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Refurbishment and enlargement of the existing office building through; an extension of the central block at roof level; extension of the central block on the northern elevation, relocating the staircase; alterations and extensions to western block and; the erection of a new eastern block off the central block, comprising ground plus five storeys; together with two x 3 storey, 4-bed residential units fronting Banim Street; associated car and cycle parking, landscaping and plant; a gated pedestrian route to Banim Street and entrance gates fronting Cambridge Grove.
The proposal constitutes a major development.

Garage Adjacent 2A Harbledown Road London 2016/00932/FUL
I give notice that Mr Matthew Cox is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of the existing single storey garage and erection of a part one, part two storey plus-basement single family dwellinghouse; formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the front elevation.

40 Radipole Road London SW6 5DL 2016/01107/FUL
I give notice that Mr G Santaniello is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Conversion of property from two to three self-contained residential flats; erection of an additional floor at roof level including the formation of a roof terrace to the front elevation; erection of a rear extension at third floor level on top of the existing back addition; erection of a rear extension at first floor level over part of the existing back addition; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; installation of railings around flat roofs to the rear at first, second and third floor levels, in connection with their uses as roof terraces; installation of French doors in the rear elevation at first, second and third floor levels to provide access to the proposed roof terraces; and installation of bi-fold doors to replace existing window and French doors in the rear elevation at ground floor level.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **10th April 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

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Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: **www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning**

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:

1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.
2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.
To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', '(T)' etc. in the advertisement.
3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:
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(b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
(c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.
4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.
5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.
7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.
8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.
11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.
12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.
13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.
(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.
(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.
14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.
15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.
16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.
17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.
18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

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(HALDANE ROAD)

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7. Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday, 30th March 2016 and last for 1 day. With a back up date scheduled for the 7th of April 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 15th day of March 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

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6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 12th April 2016 and last for 07 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 15th day of March 2016

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

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R's denied by the footballing gods

NO wonder manager Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink left Preston's Deepdale ground on Saturday bemoaning ill fortune after his side were denied their third consecutive win for the first time this season.

The common consensus is that Preston should have had their captain Tom Clarke sent-off for pulling back R's Tjaronn Chery when the in-form attacker was clean through, 30 yards from goal, in the 82nd minute and looking set to add to Sebastian Polter's fifth minute headed goal.

Instead, much to widespread amazement, Clarke was only shown a yellow card by referee Andy Woolmer.

To add insult to injury, Preston then equalised through Eoin Doyle's 92nd minute near-post header.

"He pulls him back, it's a red card. We all know the rules, it was clear-cut," said Hasselbaink of the Chery incident.

In fairness, Rangers' Dutch boss admitted Chery had earlier wasted a great chance to seal an away victory when put through by Polter. But his shot from 15 yards was parried clear by advancing Preston keeper Anders Lindegaard.

Hasselbaink added: "I'm very frustrated not to have won the game. At 1-0, we had a great chance to make it 2-0 but we still should have gone on to win.

"Preston put us under pressure in the first half, but we soaked it up. And when we had the ball, we caused them problems.

"In the second half, we did that even better. We created chances, while they didn't.

"It's frustrating, because if you look at the whole game, we deserved the three points.

Hasselbaink concluded: "Today we were unfortunate, but if you look at some of the decisions that were made, the gods were not with us."

There is a growing sense among fans that Rangers are showing real signs of sustained improvement under Hasselbaink.

After the international break, mid-table Hoops will resume after Easter with a tough home game against third-placed Middlesbrough on Friday, April 1.

■ SEB Polter headed QPR in front at Preston Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

■ **QPR have earned praise for their much improved communications with supporters following last week's fans' forum attended by Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, director of football Les Ferdinand and CEO Lee Hoos.**

Clive Whittingham, who runs the respected Loft For Words website, said: "The club has improved how it communicates and deals with its supporters. This forum of little over an hour was positively serene compared to the two-hour battering Phil Beard took in this room a couple of years back when it transpired that not only had the CEO of the time not been responding to supporters' emails, he hadn't appointed anybody else to do it either and so one relatively small individual grievance after another was cobbed at him, as it was the only time he'd ever made himself available to receive them.

"QPR are communicating with their fans, be it through Lee Hoos' supporters' consultation committee, through fans' forums, the media team meeting with the fan sites or whatever. None of this was taking place two-and-a-half years ago, and it meant an 'us and them' attitude built up and often tiny issues were allowed to grow and fester for months, possibly without anybody at the club knowing or caring that they existed. This regular contact means events like this will be calmer, tamer affairs and that's no bad thing. It also means issues big and small are being dealt with quickly."

One of the most revealing facts to emerge from the latest forum was Director of football Les Ferdinand's admission that: "In the Premier League we were in the top half of payers in that division and we couldn't sustain that. At the end of any one season you want to replenish with two or three players maximum, but we were replenishing with 13 different players. It's impossible to get everyone right, they had to fit with the budget and some of them will go this summer. I don't want to bring another 10 players in."

Ferdinand said the amount of players the club needed to move on from last season meant a lot of personnel had to be brought in on a budget, to keep some sort of a team together while reducing the wage bill.

We'll bring you more from the forum in next week's issue.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Friday, April 1
QPR v Middlesbrough, 7.45
Saturday, April 2
Aston Villa v CHELSEA, 12.45
FULHAM v Milton Keynes Dons, 3.00

■ VETERAN midfielder Scott Parker squandered a golden chance to give Fulham the lead at Birmingham Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Jokanovic will fret over absent strikers

■ **FULHAM from back page**

"We have to forget everything that has happened and start again and try and get all the points in front of us. We need to be all together. I'll need people who started today and I'll need people who were on the bench or in the stand."

Injured in warm-up

Fulham were dealt a blow prior to kick-off when Fernando Amorebieta was injured in the warm-up. He was replaced by Dan Burn.

"Fernando has some kind of ankle problem," confirmed Jokanović. "I expect he'll be available for the next game."

Despite a break from action this weekend, it won't be totally stress-free for Jokanović, who must hope that both of his first choice strikers, Ross McCormack and Moussa Dembélé, return from international duty injury-free. McCormack has been called into the Scotland squad (as a replacement for Norwich City's Steven Naismith) for their friendly against the Czech Republic in Prague on Thursday (March 24) and at home against Denmark next Tuesday (29th), while Dembélé is in the France Under-20 squad. Emerson Hyndman is in the USA Under-23 party for their Olympic Play-Off double-header against Colombia.

■ **CHELSEA from back page**

getting used to the big resistance (quality opposition). But I think it is difficult to say they are my key players. They are 19, 20 years-old and I think it is a little bit too much to ask for them to be a key player like a Didier Drogba, John Terry or Frank Lampard – they had many years of experience. That's too much, so for now they must be an addition to a good team."

Changing the football philosophy of an elite club is difficult and fraught with danger, as the current side has found when attempting to morph from a highly pragmatic side under Mourinho into something more expansive. Hiddink knows this and he confirmed the club is in a transition phase. But quite what they are trying to become is still unknown.

So does the club have a bigger problem, in that it needs to decide what type of football it wants to play – counter-attack or possession – which will dictate the type of players needed to be recruited?

Hiddink has a word of caution for the club's hierarchy and incoming manager.

"That's true," he said. "But I think the Premier League is not a league where you can just be a counter-attacking team.

Attractive nature

"What you saw at the weekend against West Ham . . . normally everyone is happy with a draw, but with two minutes to go, Chelsea were going forward and wanted to make it 3-2, as were West Ham. That's the attractive nature of this British Premier League. So it's difficult to say, 'Hey, I want a counter-attacking team'.

"I think that the people like to be entertained. Of course they like to win, but the first thought in England is going forward and not this boring possession, playing wide in the back four or whatever."

And is it the philosophy of the club itself?

"I think so, yeah. At least it is my philosophy."

It's a shame Guus Hiddink will be lowering his golfing handicap instead of trying to re-create a Chelsea team that embodies his philosophy.

■ **CHELSEA under-18s are in pole position to reach their fifth FA Youth Cup final in a row, having beaten Blackburn Rovers 1-0 away in the semi-final, first leg.**

The only goal of last Friday's game came from the head of defender Fikayo Tomori.

The second leg is at Stamford Bridge on Friday, April 8 at 7.45pm.

Paul Lagan

Cricket fund is a hit

THE sold-out Cricket for Heroes match last year at the Kia Oval raised £326,414 for Help For Heroes.

Surrey CCC chief executive Richard Gould presented the cheque to Jeff Blackett from Help for Heroes at the Kia Oval last week.

The memorable fixture brought world stars such as M.S. Dhoni, Brendon McCullum, Brian Lara, Mahela Jayawardene and Matthew Hayden to the Kia Oval for a fantastic night of cricketing fundraising.

Individual donations included cash in buckets, the purchase of wrist bands and t-shirts and went all the way up to one fan donating £1,000 for each of former England captain Andrew Strauss' four boundaries.

Newly-promoted **Surrey** will play their first Specsavers-sponsored County Championship Division One match of the season against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge on Sunday, April 10.

Middlesex will open against Warwickshire at Lord's a week later.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2016 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

FABULOUS free-kick by Cesc Fabregas brought Chelsea their first equaliser Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Hiddink on the right course

GUUS Hiddink will have all the time in the world in the summer to get his golf handicap back down to four.

Chelsea's 69-year-old interim manager has not had time to play since taking the reins at SW6 but will hit the greens in the coming days as the Premier League takes an enforced break for international friendlies.

Having overseen a sixth draw at home – 2-2 against West Ham United – since taking over from Jose Mourinho in December, the Dutchman is contemplating striking a few balls as he works out how to finish the season on a high note.

Asked what he will be doing until Blues take on Aston Villa at Villa Park on April 2, he half-joked: "My plan is to hit a very small white ball over the next few days and to hit it as far as I can, which is over 200 yards.

"No, seriously, I'm going to have a rest for a few days and then re-start because the players are going away to do their duties with the national team all over Europe and in South America.

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

"There won't be many players at Cobham, just one or two that will have treatment and the rest will have time off."

Chelsea twice came from behind to scrape a draw against the high-flying Hammers thanks to a couple of Cesc Fabregas dead-ball strikes – one a beautiful free-kick, the other a last-gasp penalty. In doing so, Blues again showed a high level of self-motivation, with a little advice from Hiddink thrown in.

Heart and desire

"I tell them we have to get the maximum out of the team and the maximum out of the League table, to get the best position we can get under the circumstances we have experienced," said Hiddink.

"But there is also more of a moral appeal – that you are at a big club that has had a very difficult season, recovering step by step, unbeaten in the league (since he joined), and when you play in a big club in a difficult situation you must have some pride. You are champions, the title is still yours, so play with your heart and with desire."

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

With Diego Costa ruled out due to his red card in the FA Cup defeat against Everton and having time off to go on holiday (anger management classes would probably be a more effective use of his time, having being dumped by Spain), his replacement Bertrand Traore appears to have the full confidence of Hiddink, whereas loanee Pato is struggling to convince him that he warrants a starting role.

"He is working hard, but you have to take into consideration the situation when we got Pato on loan. It was a difficult time, because Remy and Falcao were out for longer periods. Traore has progressed since December.

"We have been working daily with him, he's a young kid and if you saw one example against West Ham – the lay-off which allowed Willian to penetrate and give the final pass to Ruben (Loftus-Cheek) – you hardly noticed it, but it was a very soft five yards and we got the opportunity to win the penalty.

"We work on those things and he is progressing. He is coping very well. He has advanced in January and February and is proving that now. It means there is another competition, another hierarchy for Pato.

"It would have been easy to say Pato has come and so he must play. But I have to be fair to the other strikers, it's my judgement, and these guys are in competition."

However, Hiddink appeared to offer Pato a glimmer of hope when he added: "He is doing well. Maybe after the international break we will see what happens. But I never give promises or guarantees to players. We still have games to go after the break. For me, it was important to have the team intact up to the break and we will see what we can do with the youngsters."

Antonio Conte is widely expected to replace Hiddink at the end of the season, but in the meantime the Dutchman suggests the club's hierarchy are perhaps not taking full advantage of his massive managerial experience.

Asked what the players are showing in terms of character and whether they are playing for their future, he said: "I am not making decisions about their future. But when you are in difficult situations, you know how people react and can put a fair judgement on players as well. It's true, but that's not up to me to make decisions."

Is he offering the club or Conte any advice?

"No, not at this moment. I think the person who is coming in will have his analysis about the team from the outside. And so far, when asked, I will give my opinion. If asked (he corrected himself) – I hope you get my grammar right, eh? 'When' and 'if' are different.

Reacted positively

"What I look for in terms of character is what happens after a setback. For instance, in the first half against West Ham, Willian had – by his high standards – some easy ball losses in possession. He was not under pressure, and he knew that. He shouted, 'Ah, my God!'

"It would have been easy to replace him, as we had other players to bring on, but he reacted positively. He said to himself, 'Hey, I have to be a big player and I have to react'. That is what he did in the second half. And that is the reaction we like to see from players in a difficult time."

Although Chelsea fans would like to see youth given a chance, with Loftus-Cheek, Traore and Kenedy leading the way, Hiddink – like Mourinho before him – is not convinced they are yet worthy of a regular starting berth.

"The Premier League is difficult," he said. "That's why I bring them in every now and then. They are

■ Continued on page 27

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham feeling the heat

WITH Fulham now teetering on the brink of the relegation zone, Slaviša Jokanović has a two-week gap in which to try and put things right on the training ground.

Saturday's 1-1 draw at Birmingham City saw Whites drop to 21st position, just one place and a point above the bottom three.

With eight Championship matches remaining, the heat is on in SW6.

Fulham's next opponents are Milton Keynes Dons, the team separating them from the drop zone, so the fixture at Craven Cottage on Saturday, April 2 now takes on a look of epic proportions.

If you believe that the bottom two, Bolton Wanderers and Charlton Athletic, are doomed to fall into League One in May, then it leaves revitalised Rotherham United, Fulham and MK Dons contesting a three-way scrap for survival.

At Birmingham, Fulham led at half-time thanks to Rohan Ince's first goal for the club. Tom Cairney set him up in the 38th minute with a clever back-heel but Ince's tame shot should have been easily dealt with by City keeper Kuszczak, who allowed the ball to squirm under his body and over the goal-line.

That should have made it 2-0 to the visitors, because big earner Scott Parker had earlier missed a glorious chance to put his side ahead. Receiving a one-two from Emerson Hyndman inside the six-yard box, Parker inexplicably delayed his shot and by the time he did chip a weak effort goalwards, it was headed clear from under the crossbar.

Another worry

As we know, Fulham very rarely do clean sheets. The inevitable Birmingham equaliser came from David Cotterill's routine right-wing cross, before Michael Morrison out-jumped Whites' defence to score with a downward header that returning keeper Marcus Bettinelli failed to lay a finger on.

That's now 24 points Whites have conceded from winning positions this season.

Another worry is that their previously impressive goals-for tally is drying up. They have managed only seven in their last six games, which have all been winless.

It could have been worse, though. Birmingham nearly won it late on as David Davis' shot hit the post before Clayton Donaldson somehow blazed the rebound over the bar from close-range.

Meanwhile, at Stadium MK, the Dons missed an injury-time penalty in their 2-1 home defeat by Brighton. Had that chance been taken, only goal difference would now be keeping Fulham out of the bottom three.

"In front of us is a very important period," head coach Jokanović said in the St. Andrew's press room. "We have to fight for all the points. We had some chances, Birmingham some too. I cannot be satisfied (with a point) but we need to keep going.

"We were very competitive today. At this moment, we've got a month-and-a-half until the end of the season. We played good football against a team in the top half, but we didn't win. It's a point and if you cannot win three, it's important you get one.

"Our future is in our hands and we'll fight until the last second. Let's be brave, intelligent and play with desire like we did today.

■ Continued on page 27

'Gods against us' says Rangers boss – page 27

Kensington & Chelsea News

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ROYALS GO ON SAFARI (WATCH OUT FOR THE SNAKES, KATE)

SEE PAGE 10

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